原作 夢枕 獏 作画 谷口ジロー

餓狼伝

GAROU-DEN

MF文庫
7-22
590

餓狼伝

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MEDIA FACTORY

9784840114479
1920179005905
ISBN4-8401-1447-1
C0179 ¥590E
定価:本体590円(税別)
メディアファクトリー
MEDIA FACTORY

餓狼伝

丹波文七(たんばぶんしち)。空手家にして関節技の使い手。彼は鍛え抜かれた肉体の中に、屈辱の暗い炎を燃やし続けていた。かつて喫したただ一度の敗北。自分を地に這いつくばらせた男と再び闘うために、文七はひたすら強さを追い求める。空手道北辰館(ほくしんかん)館長・松尾象山(まつおしょうざん)は、この文七にかつての自分を見る。競技を超えて、流派を超えて、ただ相手にくらいつき、強さを示そうとするその姿。格闘界に餓えた狼が放たれたのだ! 格闘小説の金字塔「餓狼伝」を、名匠・谷口ジローが迫真の筆致で描ききったすさまじい傑作。(板垣恵介による解説収録)

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Scanned by GGpX
Translated by tradedaemon
Edited by Dille, GGpX, Lordof & Nitouryu
Typeset by BindeR, cejadagu & ZombieButter
Quality Check by GGpX, xyz85-mvb9 & Zenquibo

夢枕 獏
Baku Yumemakura

1951年、神奈川県出身。
日本のエンターテインメント読書界を代表する作家。
1977年、「カエルの死」でデビュー。
1989年、『上弦の月を喰べる獅子』で
第10回日本SF大賞を受賞。
1998年、『神々の山嶺』で第11回柴田錬三郎賞を受賞。
「魔獣狩り」シリーズ、「餓狼伝」シリーズ、
「陰陽師」シリーズなど、大ヒット作多数。
著作のコミック化にも、
谷口ジロー、板垣恵介による「餓狼伝」、
岡野玲子による「陰陽師」など、傑作が多い。
夢枕 獏公式HP「蓬莱宮」
http://www.digiadv.co.jp/baku/

谷口ジロー
Jiroh Taniguchi

1947年、鳥取県出身。国内はもちろん、
海外でもきわめて高い評価を受ける漫画家。
1992年、「犬を飼う」で
第37回小学館漫画賞審査員特別賞受賞。
1993年、「『坊っちゃん』の時代」(共作/関川夏央)で
第12回日本漫画家協会賞優秀賞受賞。
さらに1998年、同作で
第2回手塚治虫文化賞マンガ大賞受賞。
1999年、「遥かな町へ」で
第3回文化庁メディア芸術祭マンガ部門優秀賞受賞。
2001年、「神々の山嶺」(原作/夢枕 獏)で
第5回文化庁メディア芸術祭マンガ部門優秀賞受賞。
上記以外の代表作に、
「事件屋稼業」(共作/関川夏央)、
「K」(原作/遠崎史朗)、「イカル」(原作/メビウス)など。

装画・谷口ジロー/装幀・多田和博+岡田ひとみ

MF文庫

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スパイダーマン	全5巻
池上遼一/工藤かずや	
舞	全3巻
池上遼一/広井王子	
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冒険してもいい頃	全7巻
安彦良和	
韃靼タイフーン	全3巻
李 志清/寺島 優	
三国志	全14巻
李 志清/夏秋のぞみ	
水滸伝	全8巻
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市川ジュン	
湾岸シティ・コネクション	全1巻
茗子センセーション	全1巻
この星の夜明け	全1巻
佐々木淳子	
那由他	全2巻
内田春菊	
悪女な奥さん	全1巻
ストレッサーズ	全1巻
幻想の普通少女	全3巻
山岸凉子	
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佐伯かよの 他	
闇に棲む音 他	全1巻
ある夏の日の… 他	全1巻
母影(おもかげ) 他	全1巻
ささやななえこ 他	
来訪者 他	全1巻
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銀/黒	全4巻
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原作 **夢枕獏** 作画 **谷口ジロー**

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GAROU-DEN

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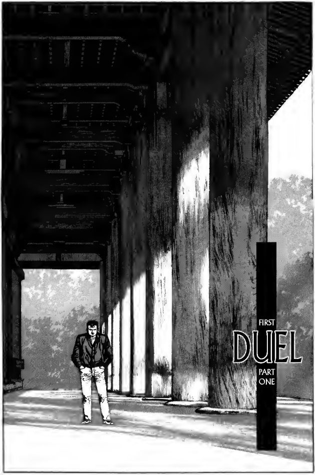
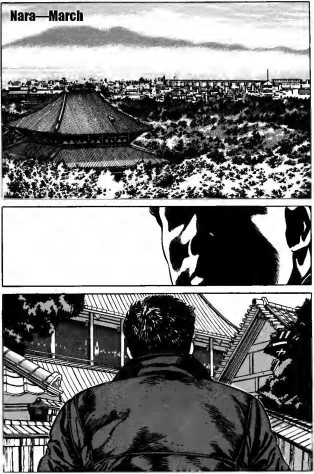
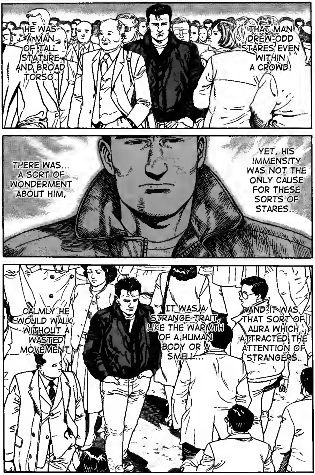
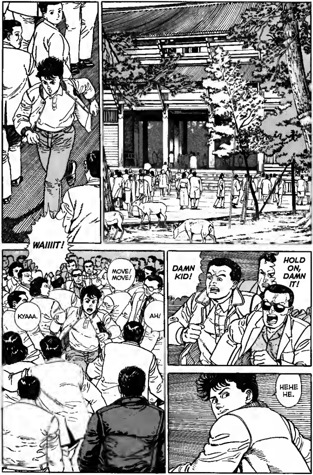
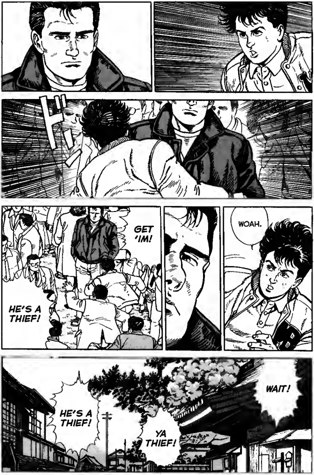
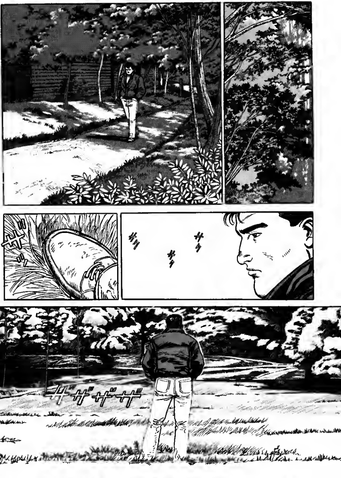

FIRST
DUEL
PART ONE

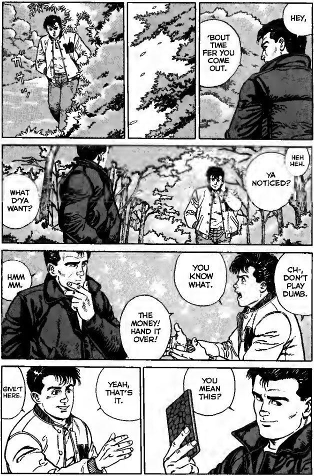

Nara—March

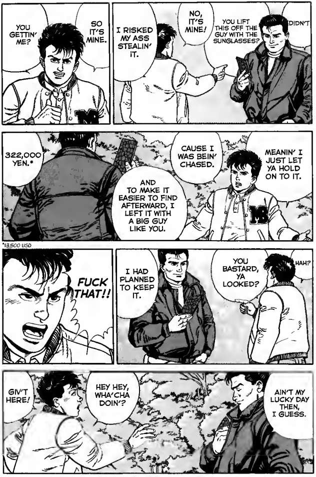

HE WAS A MAN OF TALL STATURE AND BROAD TORSO.
THAT MAN DREW ODD STARES EVEN WITHIN A CROWD.
THERE WAS... A SORT OF WONDERMENT ABOUT HIM,
YET, HIS IMMENSITY WAS NOT THE ONLY CAUSE FOR THESE SORTS OF STARES...
CALMLY HE WOULD WALK WITHOUT A WASTED MOVEMENT.
IT WAS A STRANGE TRAIT, LIKE THE WARMTH OF A HUMAN BODY OR A SMELL...
AND IT WAS THAT SORT OF AURA WHICH ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF STRANGERS..


WAIIIT!
MOVE! MOVE!
KYAAA.
AH!
DAMN KID!
HOLD ON, DAMN IT!
HEHE HE.

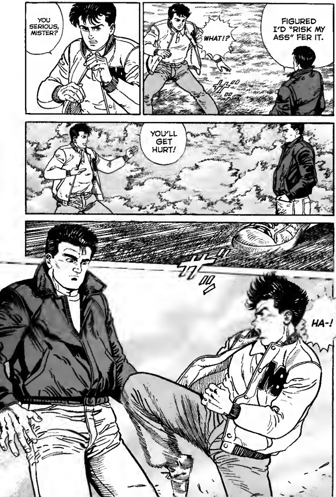

ド
GET 'IM!
HE'S A THIEF!
WOAH.
HE'S A THIEF!
YA THIEF!
WAIT!

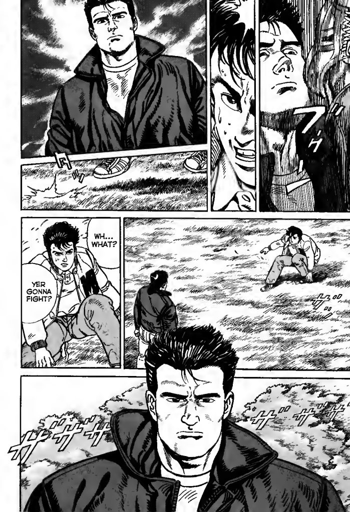

ザッ
ザク
ザク
ザク
ザザザザ

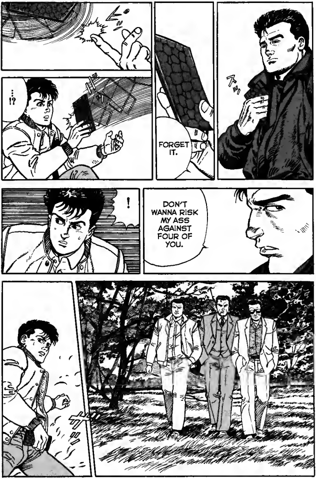

ザ
ザッ
HEY,
'BOUT TIME FER YOU COME OUT.
HEH HEH.
YA NOTICED?
WHAT D'YA WANT?
CH-, DON'T PLAY DUMB.
YOU KNOW WHAT.
THE MONEY! HAND IT OVER!
HMM MM.
GIVE'T HERE.
YEAH, THAT'S IT.
YOU MEAN THIS?

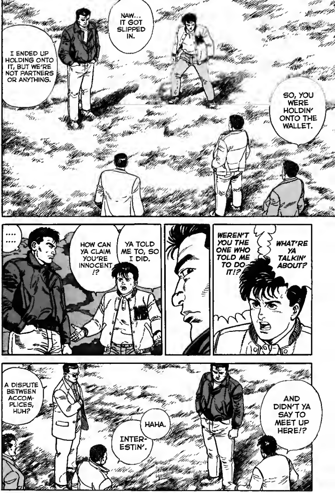

DIDN'T
YOU LIFT THIS OFF THE GUY WITH THE SUNGLASSES?
NO, IT'S MINE!
I RISKED MY ASS STEALIN' IT.
SO IT'S MINE.
YOU GETTIN' ME?
MEANIN' I JUST LET YA HOLD ON TO IT.
CAUSE I WAS BEIN' CHASED.
AND TO MAKE IT EASIER TO FIND AFTERWARD, I LEFT IT WITH A BIG GUY LIKE YOU.
322,000 YEN.*
HAH?
YOU BASTARD, YA LOOKED?
I HAD PLANNED TO KEEP IT.
FUCK THAT!!
AIN'T MY LUCKY DAY THEN, I GUESS.
HEY HEY, WHA'CHA DOIN'?
GIV'T HERE!

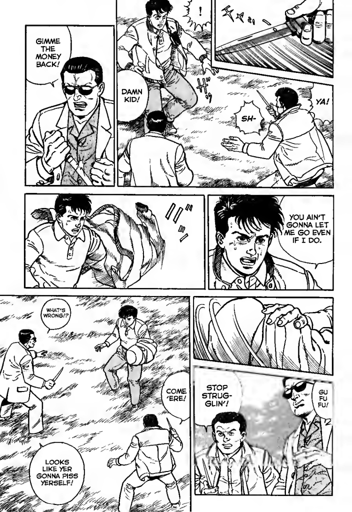
*$3,500 USD

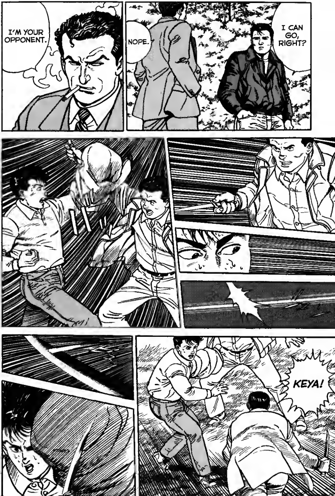

YOU SERIOUS, MISTER?
FIGURED I'D "RISK MY ASS" FER IT.
WHAT!?
YOU'LL GET HURT!
HA-!

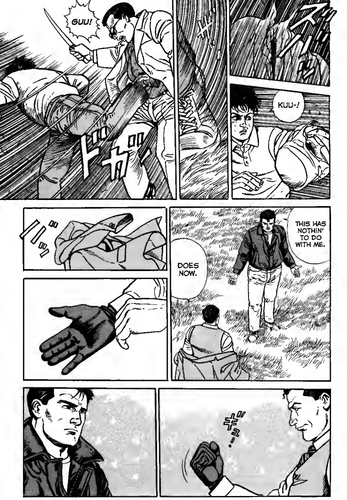

WH... WHAT?
YER GONNA FIGHT?
ザザザ
ザザザ

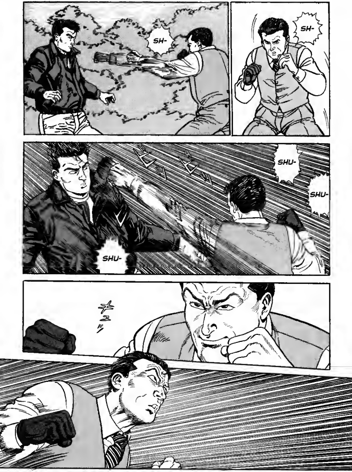

FORGET IT.
...!?
DON'T WANNA RISK MY ASS AGAINST FOUR OF YOU.
!

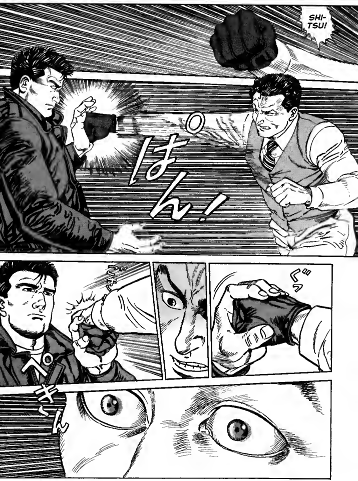

SO, YOU WERE HOLDIN' ONTO THE WALLET.
NAW... IT GOT SLIPPED IN.
I ENDED UP HOLDING ONTO IT, BUT WE'RE NOT PARTNERS OR ANYTHING.
WHAT'RE YA TALKIN' ABOUT?
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO DO IT!?
YA TOLD ME TO, SO I DID.
HOW CAN YA CLAIM YOU'RE INNOCENT !?
....
....
AND DIDN'T YA SAY TO MEET UP HERE!?
HAHA.
INTERESTIN'.
A DISPUTE BETWEEN ACCOMPLICES, HUH?

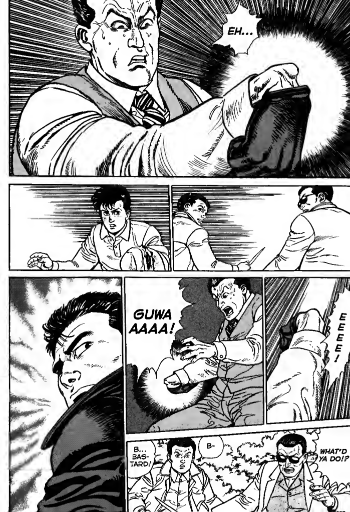

!
YA!
SH-
DAMN KID!
GIMME THE MONEY BACK!
YOU AIN'T GONNA LET ME GO EVEN IF I DO.
GU FU FU!
STOP STRUG-GLIN'!
COME 'ERE!
WHAT'S WRONG!?
LOOKS LIKE YER GONNA PISS YERSELF!

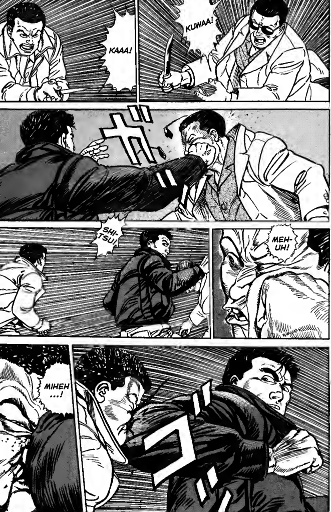

I CAN GO, RIGHT?
NOPE.
I'M YOUR OPPONENT.
KEYA!

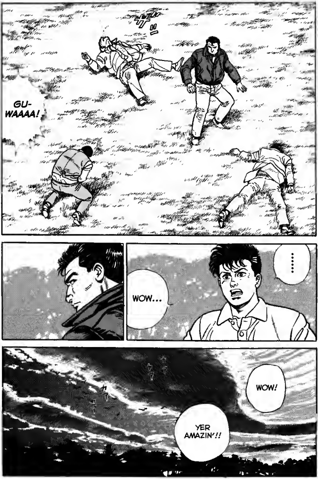

ズザッ
KUU-!
ザッ
GUU!
ドガッ
THIS HAS NOTHIN' TO DO WITH ME.
DOES NOW.
バッ
ギュ!!

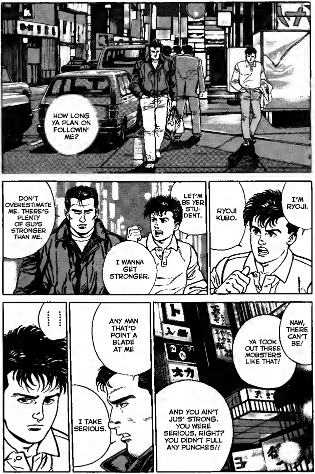

SH-
SH-
SHU-
SHU-
SHU-
ギュッ

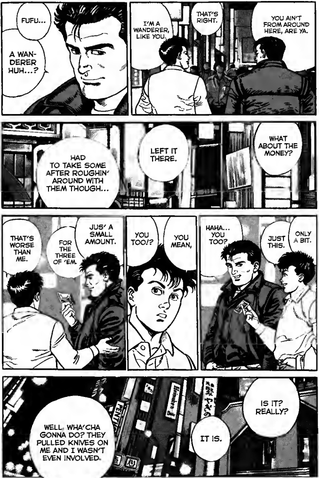

SHI-TSU!
ぱん!
ごき
ぐっ
ぎくん

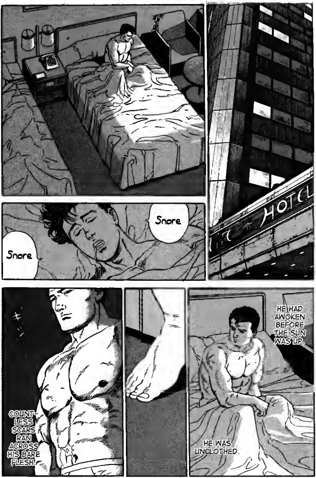

EH...
EEEE!
GUWA AAAA!
WHAT'D YA DO!?
B-
B... BASTARD!

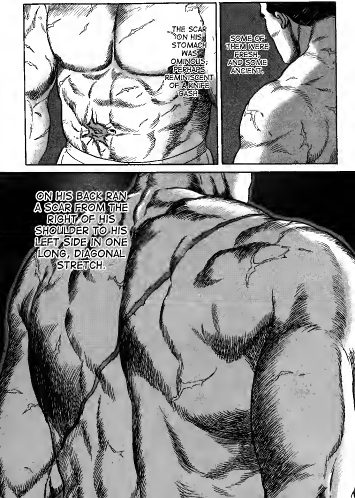

KUWAA!
KAAA!
ガ
MEH-UH!
SHI-TSU!
ゴ
MIHEH ...!


GU-
WAAAA!
......
WOW...
WOW!
YER
AMAZIN'!!


HOW LONG YA PLAN ON FOLLOWIN' ME?
I'M RYOJI.
RYOJI KUBO.
LET'M BE YER STUDENT.
I WANNA GET STRONGER.
DON'T OVERESTIMATE ME. THERE'S PLENTY OF GUYS STRONGER THAN ME.
NAW, THERE CAN'T BE!
YA TOOK OUT THREE MOBSTERS LIKE THAT!
AND YOU AIN'T JUS' STRONG. YOU WERE SERIOUS, RIGHT? YOU DIDN'T PULL ANY PUNCHES!!
ANY MAN THAT'D POINT A BLADE AT ME
I TAKE SERIOUS.
......


YOU AIN'T FROM AROUND HERE, ARE YA.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M A WANDERER, LIKE YOU.
FUFU...
A WANDERER HUH...?
WHAT ABOUT THE MONEY?
LEFT IT THERE.
HAD TO TAKE SOME AFTER ROUGHIN' AROUND WITH THEM THOUGH...
ONLY A BIT.
JUST THIS.
HAHA... YOU TOO?
YOU MEAN,
YOU TOO!?
JUS' A SMALL AMOUNT.
FOR THE THREE OF 'EM.
THAT'S WORSE THAN ME.
IS IT? REALLY?
IT IS.
WELL, WHA'CHA GONNA DO? THEY PULLED KNIVES ON ME AND I WASN'T EVEN INVOLVED.

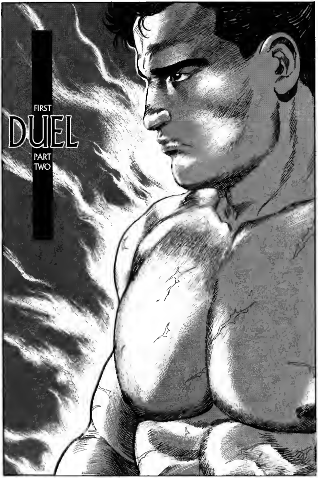

HOTEL
Snore
Snore
HE HAD AWOKEN BEFORE THE SUN WAS UP.
HE WAS UNCLOTHED.
COUNTLESS SCARS RAN ACROSS HIS BARE FLESH.

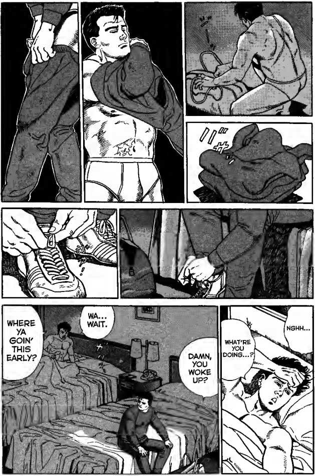

SOME OF THEM WERE FRESH, AND SOME ANCIENT.
THE SCAR ON HIS STOMACH WAS OMINOUS; PERHAPS REMINISCENT OF A KNIFE GASH.
ON HIS BACK RAN A SCAR FROM THE RIGHT OF HIS SHOULDER TO HIS LEFT SIDE IN ONE LONG, DIAGONAL STRETCH.

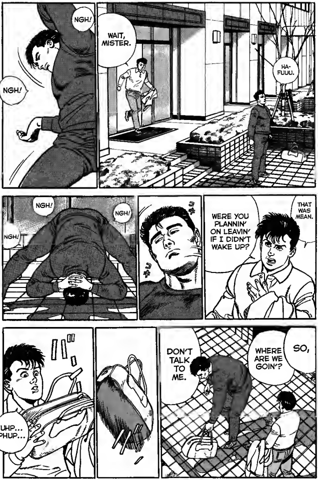
FIRST

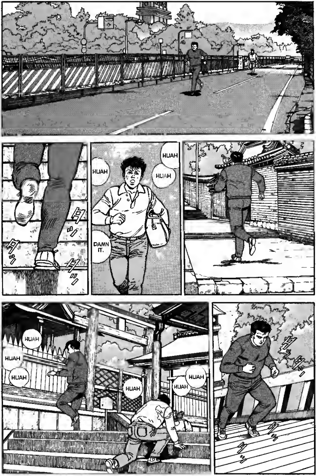
DUEL

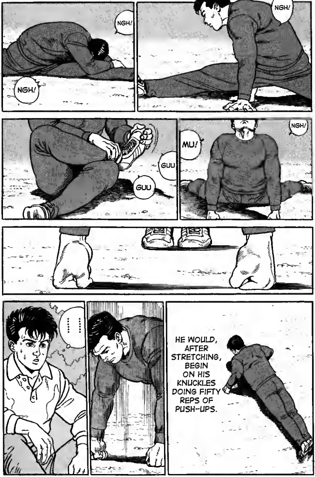
PART TWO

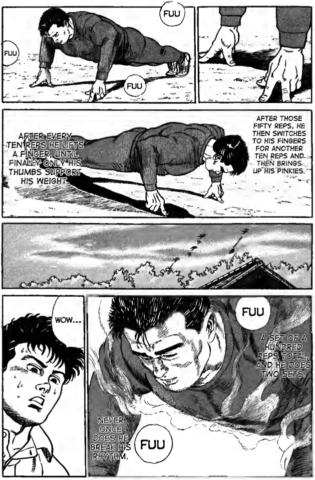



NGHH...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING...?
DAMN, YOU WOKE UP?
WA... WAIT.
WHERE YA GOIN' THIS EARLY?

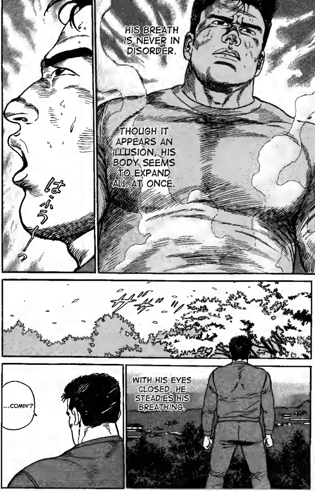

NGH!
NGH!
WAIT, MISTER.
HA-FUUU.
NGH!
NGH!
NGH!
コキ
コキ
WERE YOU PLANNIN' ON LEAVIN' IF I DIDN'T WAKE UP?
THAT WAS MEAN.
UHP... PHUP...
SO, WHERE ARE WE GOIN'?
DON'T TALK TO ME.

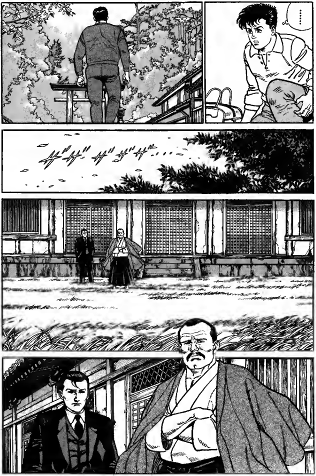

HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
DAMN IT.
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH

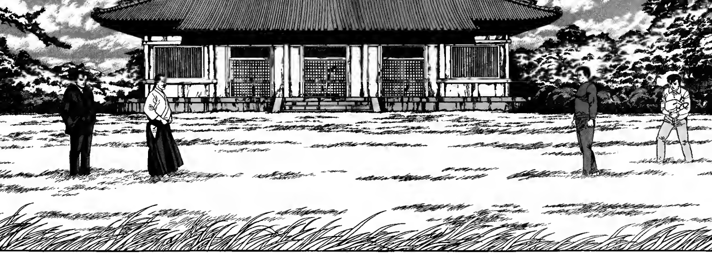

NGH!
NGH!
NGH!
GUU
GUU
MU!
NGH!
……
HE WOULD, AFTER STRETCHING, BEGIN ON HIS KNUCKLES DOING FIFTY REPS OF PUSH-UPS.

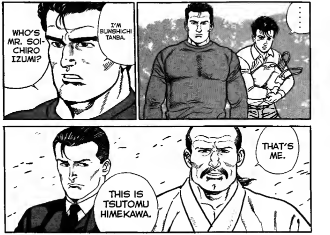

FUU
FUU
FUU
AFTER EVERY TEN REPS HE LIFTS A FINGER, UNTIL FINALLY ONLY HIS THUMBS SUPPORT HIS WEIGHT.
AFTER THOSE FIFTY REPS, HE THEN SWITCHES TO HIS FINGERS FOR ANOTHER TEN REPS AND THEN BRINGS UP HIS PINKIES.
WOW...
FUU
A SET OF A HUNDRED REPS TOTAL, AND HE DOES TWO SETS.
NEVER ONCE DOES HE BREAK HIS RHYTHM.
FUU

ジリジリ

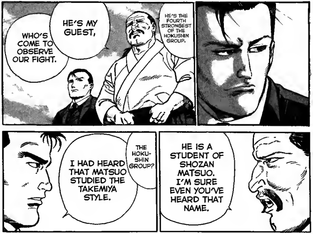

HIS BREATH IS NEVER IN DISORDER.
THOUGH IT APPEARS AN ILLUSION, HIS BODY SEEMS TO EXPAND ALL AT ONCE.
はふう〜っ
ザザ〃
WITH HIS EYES CLOSED, HE STEADIES HIS BREATHING.
...COMIN'?


……
ザザザザザ……

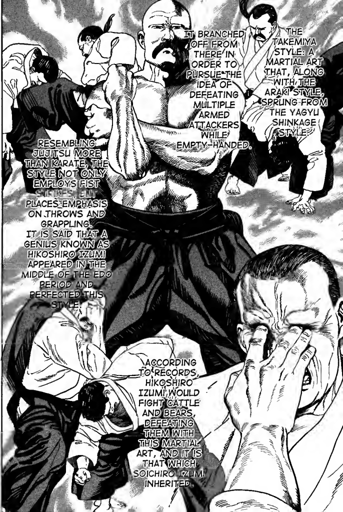


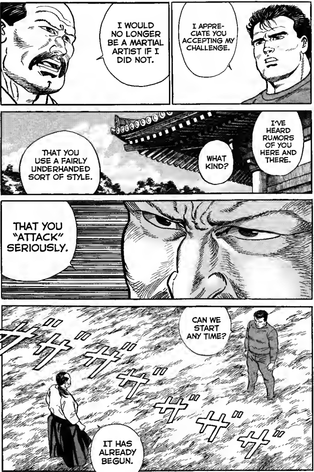


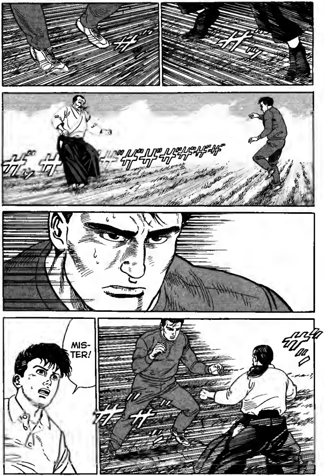
. . . . .
I'M BUNSHICHI TANBA.
WHO'S MR. SOICHIRO IZUMI?
THAT'S ME.
THIS IS TSUTOMU HIMEKAWA.

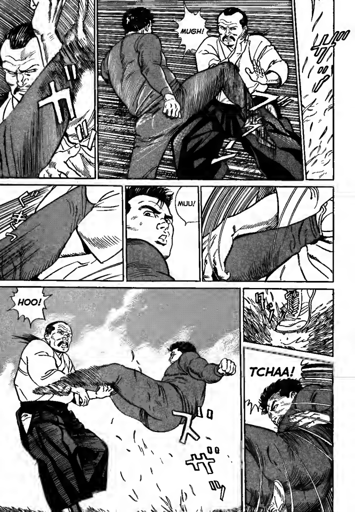


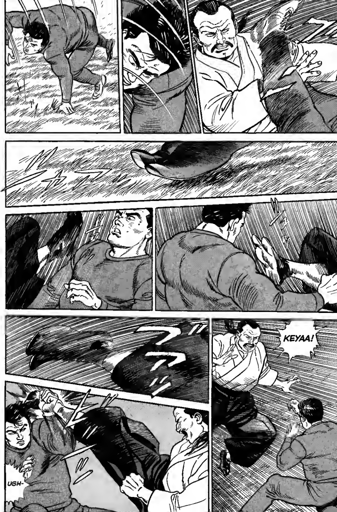
HE'S MY GUEST,
WHO'S COME TO OBSERVE OUR FIGHT.
HE'S THE FOURTH STRONGEST OF THE HOKUSHIN GROUP.
HE IS A STUDENT OF SHOZAN MATSUO. I'M SURE EVEN YOU'VE HEARD THAT NAME.
THE HOKUSHIN GROUP?
I HAD HEARD THAT MATSUO STUDIED THE TAKEMIYA STYLE.

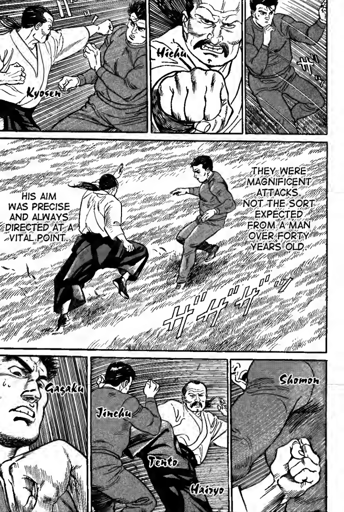

THE TAKEMIYA STYLE: A MARTIAL ART THAT, ALONG WITH THE ARAKI STYLE, SPRUNG FROM THE YAGYU SHINKAGE STYLE.
IT BRANCHED OFF FROM THERE IN ORDER TO PURSUE THE IDEA OF DEFEATING MULTIPLE ARMED ATTACKERS WHILE EMPTY-HANDED.
RESEMBLING JUJITSU MORE THAN KARATE, THE STYLE NOT ONLY EMPLOYS FIST STRIKES, BUT PLACES EMPHASIS ON THROWS AND GRAPPLING. IT IS SAID THAT A GENIUS KNOWN AS HIKOSHIRO IZUMI APPEARED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EDO PERIOD AND PERFECTED THIS STYLE.
ACCORDING TO RECORDS, HIKOSHIRO IZUMI WOULD FIGHT CATTLE AND BEARS, DEFEATING THEM WITH THIS MARTIAL ART, AND IT IS THAT WHICH SOICHIRO IZUMI INHERITED.

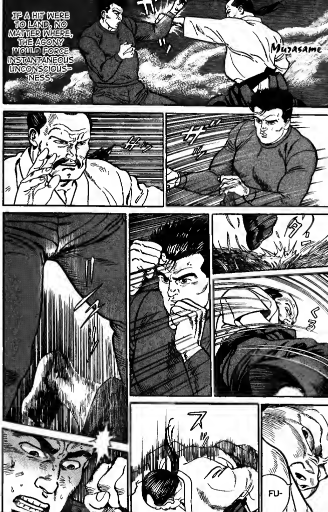

I APPRECIATE YOU ACCEPTING MY CHALLENGE.
I WOULD NO LONGER BE A MARTIAL ARTIST IF I DID NOT.
I'VE HEARD RUMORS OF YOU HERE AND THERE.
WHAT KIND?
THAT YOU USE A FAIRLY UNDERHANDED SORT OF STYLE.
THAT YOU "ATTACK" SERIOUSLY.
CAN WE START ANY TIME?
ザ ザ ザ ザ ザ ザ ザ
IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN.

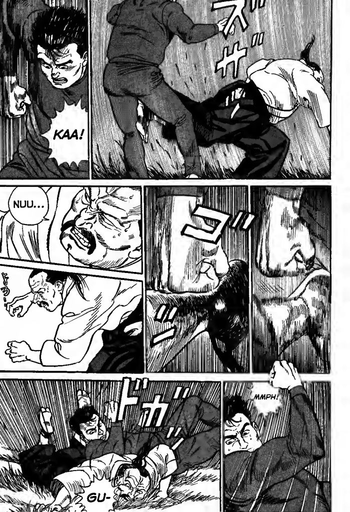

ザッ
ザッ
ザッ ザ ザザザザザザザザ
ザッ
MIS-TER!
ザ ザ

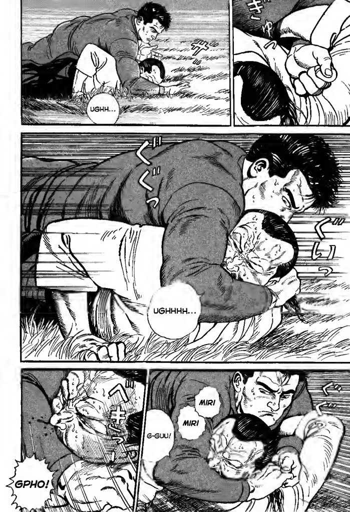

MUGH!
MUU!
TCHAA!
HOO!

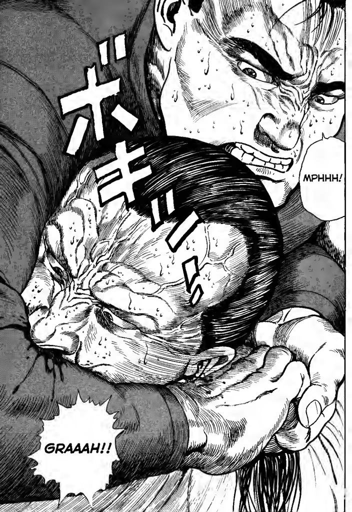

KEYAA!
UGH-

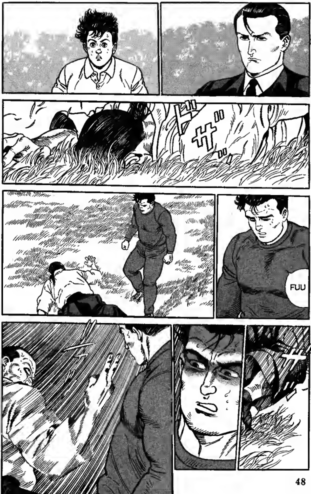

Kyosen
Hichu
ガッ
HIS AIM WAS PRECISE AND ALWAYS DIRECTED AT A VITAL POINT.
THEY WERE MAGNIFICENT ATTACKS, NOT THE SORT EXPECTED FROM A MAN OVER FORTY YEARS OLD.
ザザザッ
Gasaku
Jinchu
Tento
Hairyo
Shomon

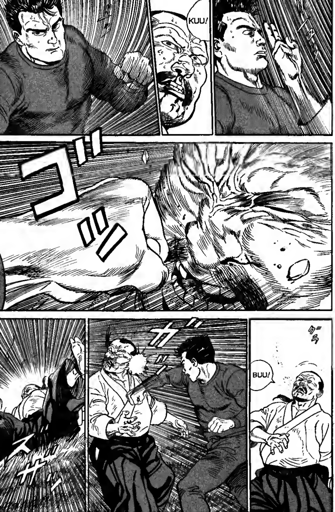

Murasame
IF A HIT WERE TO LAND, NO MATTER WHERE, THE AGONY WOULD FORCE INSTANTANEOUS UNCONSCIOUSNESS.
ス
FU-

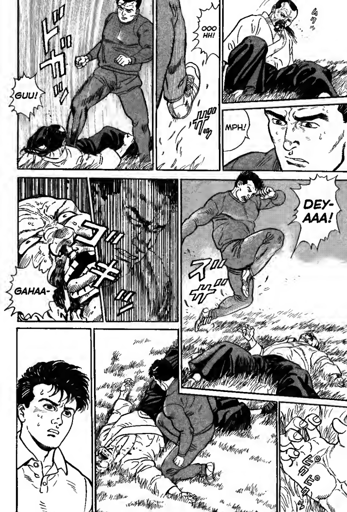

ズザ
KAA!
ゴッ
ジ
NUU...
よろ…
MMPH!
ドガッ
GU-

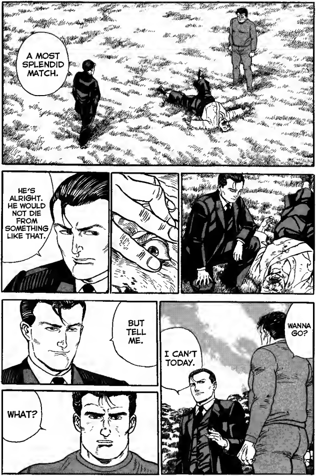

ぎゅっ
ザッ
UGHH...
ぐいっ
ぐぐっ
UGHHHH...
ぐ
MIRI
MIRI
G-GUU!
ベキッ
GPHO!

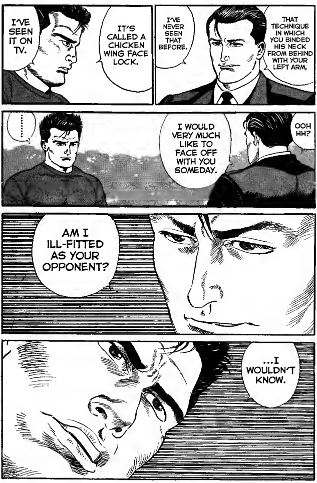

ボキッ!!
MPHHH!
GRAAAH!!


ドザ
FUU
ザ


KUU!
ゴッ
グラ
BUU!
ガッ
ズザッ

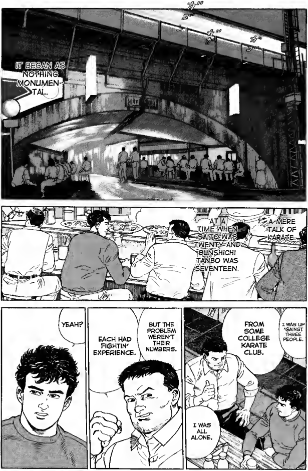

MPH!
OOO HH!
GUU!
DEY-AAA!
GAHAA-

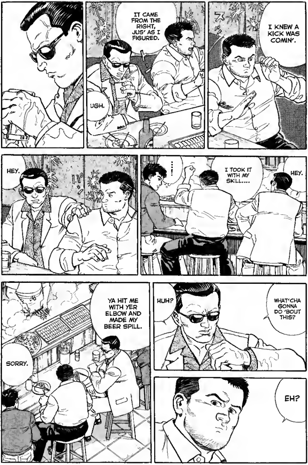

A MOST SPLENDID MATCH.
HE'S ALRIGHT. HE WOULD NOT DIE FROM SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
BUT TELL ME.
WHAT?
WANNA GO?
I CAN'T TODAY.

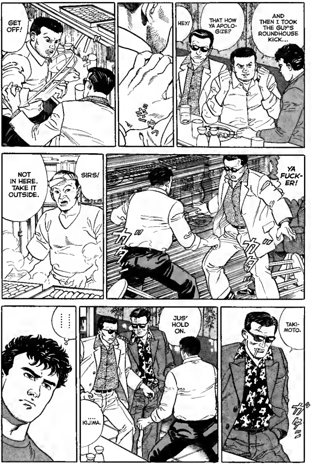

THAT TECHNIQUE IN WHICH YOU BINDED HIS NECK FROM BEHIND WITH YOUR LEFT ARM,
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE.
IT'S CALLED A CHICKEN WING FACE LOCK.
I'VE SEEN IT ON TV.
OOH HH?
I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO FACE OFF WITH YOU SOMEDAY.
……
AM I ILL-FITTED AS YOUR OPPONENT?
…I WOULDN'T KNOW.

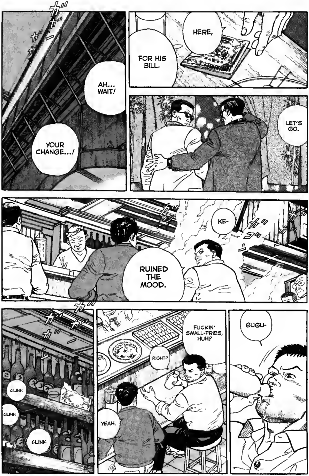
SECOND

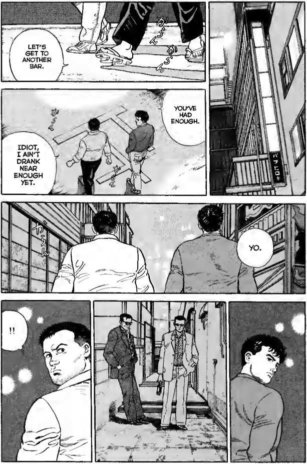
VENDETTA

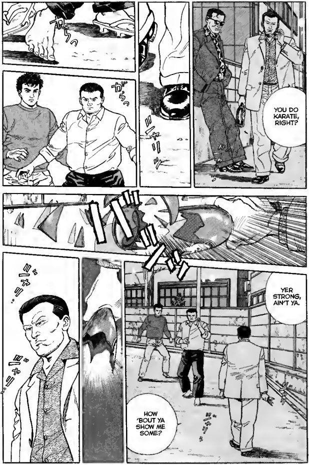

ガ
ゴ
ガ
ゴ
IT BEGAN AS NOTHING MONUMENTAL.
A MERE TALK OF KARATE.
AT A TIME WHEN SAITO WAS TWENTY AND BUNSHICHI TANBO WAS SEVENTEEN.
I WAS UP 'GAINST THREE PEOPLE.
FROM SOME COLLEGE KARATE CLUB.
I WAS ALL ALONE.
BUT THE PROBLEM WEREN'T THEIR NUMBERS.
EACH HAD FIGHTIN' EXPERIENCE.
YEAH?

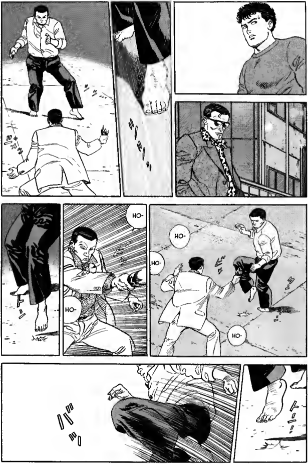

IT CAME FROM THE RIGHT, JUS' AS I FIGURED.
UGH.
ス
I KNEW A KICK WAS COMIN'.
HEY.
!!
!
I TOOK IT WITH MY SKILL....
HEY.
YA HIT ME WITH YER ELBOW AND MADE MY BEER SPILL.
SORRY.
HUH?
WHAT'CHA GONNA DO 'BOUT THIS?
EH?

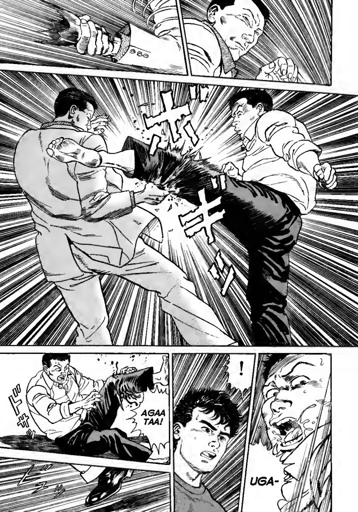

GET OFF!
HEY!
THAT HOW YA APOLOGIZE?
AND THEN I TOOK THE GUY'S ROUNDHOUSE KICK...
NOT IN HERE. TAKE IT OUTSIDE.
SIRS!
YA FUCKER!
....
JUS' HOLD ON.
.... KIJIMA.
TAKIMOTO.

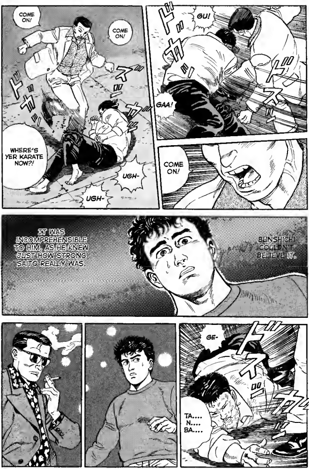

HERE,
FOR HIS BILL.
LET'S GO.
AH... WAIT!
YOUR CHANGE...!
KE-
RUINED THE MOOD.
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
FUCKIN' SMALL-FRIES, HUH?
RIGHT?
YEAH.
GUGU-

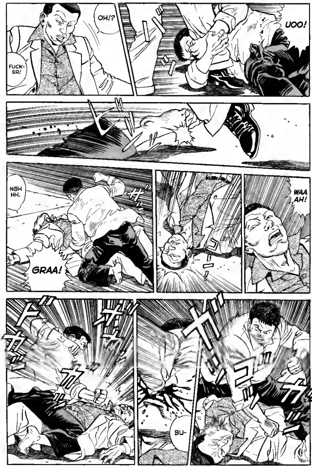

パブヒロ
がらん
がらん
LET'S GET TO ANOTHER BAR.
YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH.
からん
IDIOT, I AIN'T DRANK NEAR ENOUGH YET.
からん
YO.
がらん
!!

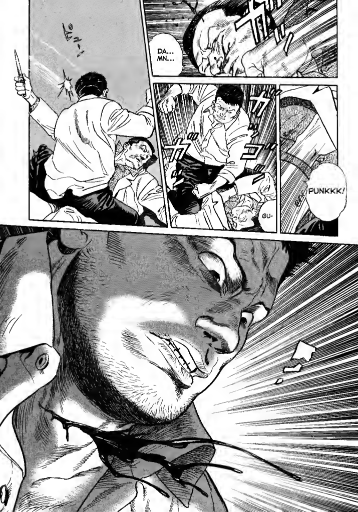

YOU DO KARATE, RIGHT?
YER STRONG, AIN'T YA.
HOW 'BOUT YA SHOW ME SOME?

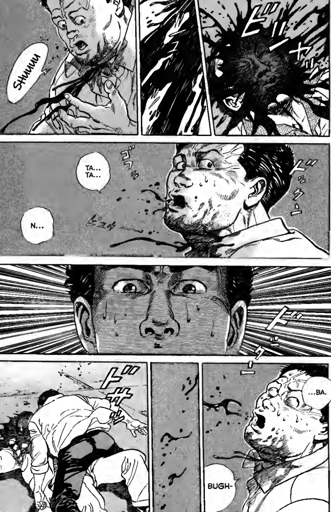

HO-
HO-
HO-
HO-
HO-
バッ

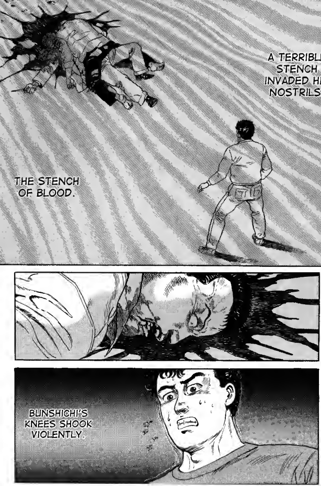

ボギッ
UGA-
!
AGAA TAA!
ドギッ
ビュッ

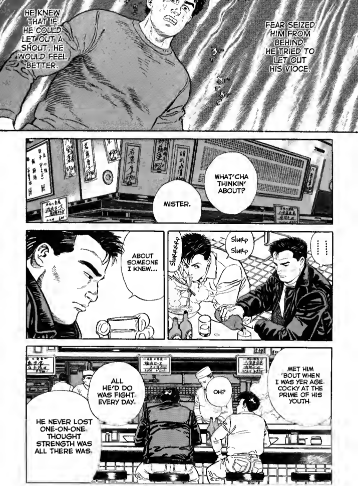

GU!
GAA!
COME ON!
COME ON!
COME ON!
WHERE'S YER KARATE NOW?!
UGH-
UGH-
BUNSHICHI COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.
IT WAS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO HIM, AS HE KNEW JUST HOW STRONG SAITO REALLY WAS.
GE-
TA.... N... BA....

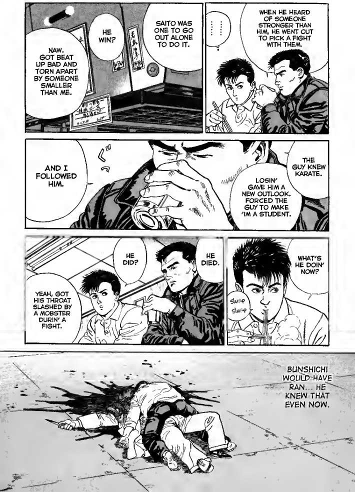

UOO!
OH!?
FUCK-ER!
WAA AH!
NGH HH.
GRAA!
BU-

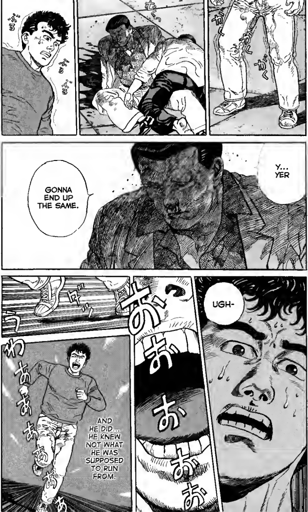

DA... MN...
PUNKKK!
GU-

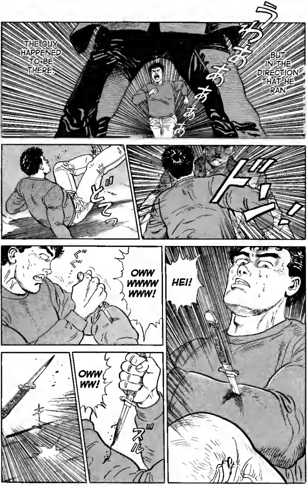

ビジャッ
SHUUUU
ドックン
ゴフッ
TA...
TA...
ピュッ
N...
ドックー
...BA.
BUGH-
ドザッ

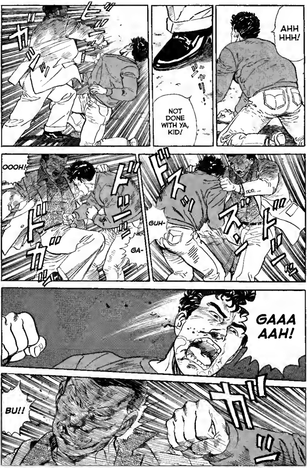

A TERRIBLE STENCH INVADED HIS NOSTRILS.
THE STENCH OF BLOOD.
BUNSHICHI'S KNEES SHOOK VIOLENTLY.

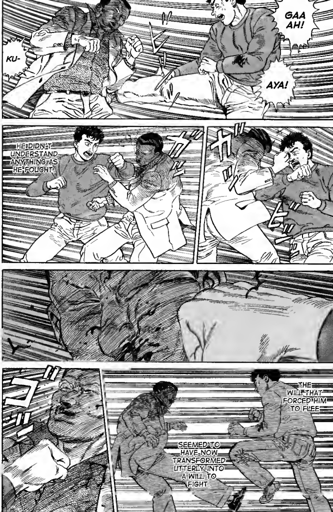

FEAR SEIZED HIM FROM BEHIND. HE TRIED TO LET OUT HIS VIOCE.
HE KNEW THAT IF HE COULD LET OUT A SHOUT, HE WOULD FEEL BETTER.
WHAT'CHA THINKIN' ABOUT?
MISTER.
...
Slurp
Slurp
Slurrrrp
ABOUT SOMEONE I KNEW...
MET HIM BOUT WHEN I WAS YER AGE. COCKY AT THE PRIME OF HIS YOUTH.
OH?
ALL HE'D DO WAS FIGHT EVERY DAY.
HE NEVER LOST ONE-ON-ONE. THOUGHT STRENGTH WAS ALL THERE WAS.

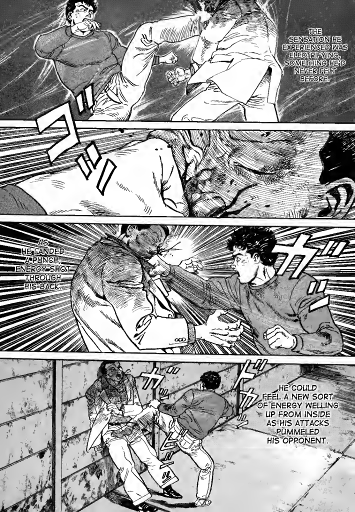

WHEN HE HEARD OF SOMEONE STRONGER THAN HIM, HE WENT OUT TO PICK A FIGHT WITH THEM.
......
SAITO WAS ONE TO GO OUT ALONE TO DO IT.
HE WIN?
NAW. GOT BEAT UP BAD AND TORN APART BY SOMEONE SMALLER THAN ME.
THE GUY KNEW KARATE.
LOSIN' GAVE HIM A NEW OUTLOOK. FORCED THE GUY TO MAKE 'IM A STUDENT.
AND I FOLLOWED HIM.
WHAT'S HE DOIN' NOW?
SLURP
SLURP
HE DIED.
HE DID?
YEAH, GOT HIS THROAT SLASHED BY A MOBSTER DURIN' A FIGHT.
BUNSHICHI WOULD HAVE RAN... HE KNEW THAT EVEN NOW.

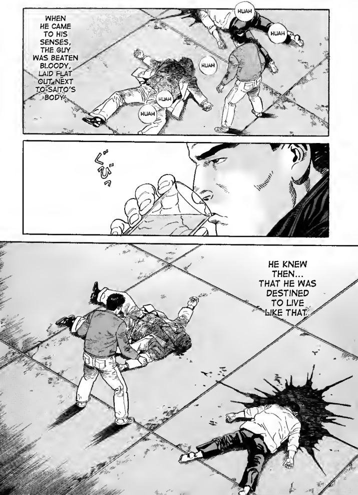

がくがく
がく
むくっ
ぶる
ぶる
ぶる
Y... YER
GONNA END UP THE SAME.
UGH-
おおおおお
ダッ
う
わあああああああ
AND HE DID... HE KNEW NOT WHAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO RUN FROM.

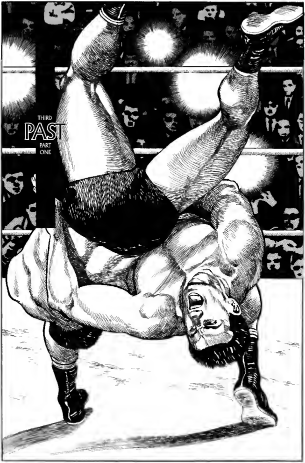

うわあああああ
BUT IN THE DIRECTION THAT HE RAN
THE GUY HAPPENED TO BE THERE.
ドン
ドてっ
HEI!
OWW WWWW WWW!
ぐ ぐ
スル
OWW WW!
キ


AHH HHH!
NOT DONE WITH YA, KID!
GUH-
OOOH!
GA-
GAAA AAH!
BU!!


GAA AH!
AYA!
KU-
HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING AS HE FOUGHT.
THE WILL THAT FORCED HIM TO FLEE...
SEEMED TO HAVE NOW TRANSFORMED UTTERLY INTO A WILL TO FIGHT.


THE SENSATION HE EXPERIENCED WAS ELECTRIFYING, SOMETHING HE'D NEVER FELT BEFORE.
ゴッ
ガッ
AS HE LANDED A PUNCH, ENERGY SHOT THROUGH HIS BACK.
HE COULD FEEL A NEW SORT OF ENERGY WELLING UP FROM INSIDE AS HIS ATTACKS PUMMELED HIS OPPONENT.
ドカッ
ガッ
ビーッ

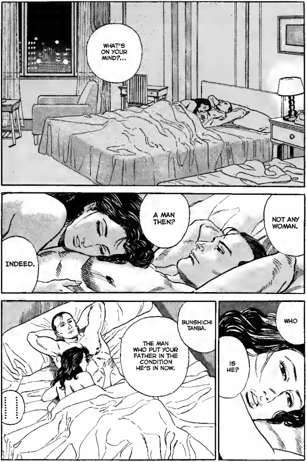

WHEN HE CAME TO HIS SENSES, THE GUY WAS BEATEN BLOODY, LAID FLAT OUT NEXT TO SAITO'S BODY.
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
ぐびっ
HE KNEW THEN... THAT HE WAS DESTINED TO LIVE LIKE THAT.

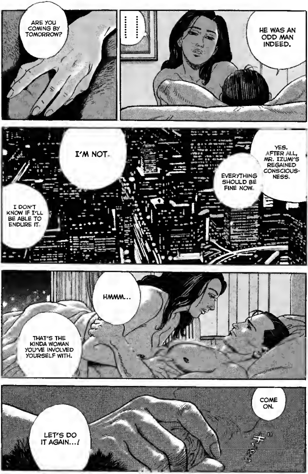


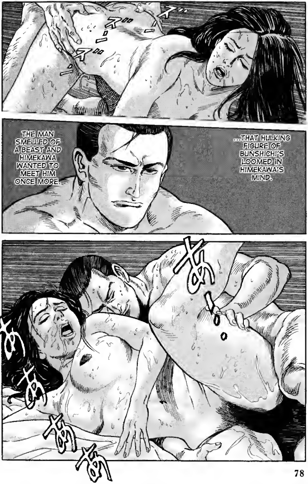
THIRD

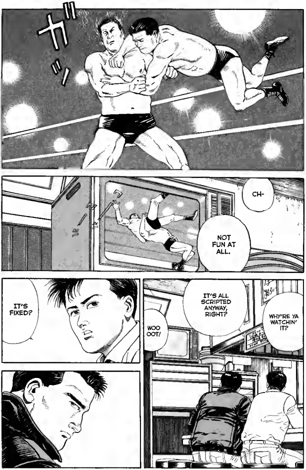
PAST

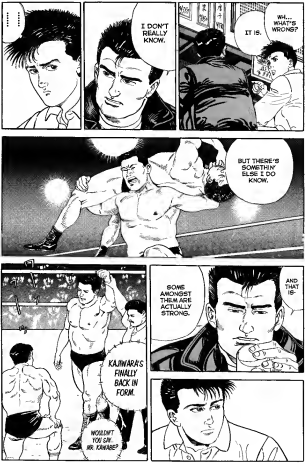
PART ONE

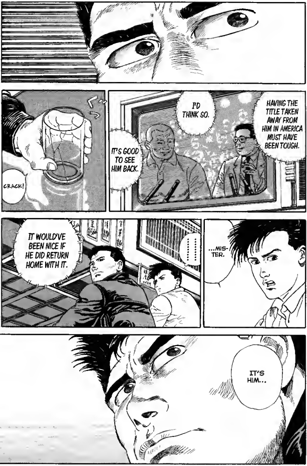

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?...
NOT ANY WOMAN.
A MAN THEN?
INDEED.
WHO IS HE?
BUNSHICHI TANBA.
THE MAN WHO PUT YOUR FATHER IN THE CONDITION HE'S IN NOW.
......

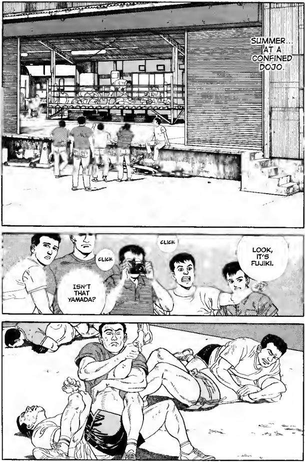

HE WAS AN ODD MAN INDEED.
......
ARE YOU COMING BY TOMORROW?
YES. AFTER ALL, MR. IZUMI'S REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS.
EVERYTHING SHOULD BE FINE NOW.
I'M NOT.
I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ABLE TO ENDURE IT.
HMMM...
THAT'S THE KINDA WOMAN YOU'VE INVOLVED YOURSELF WITH.
COME ON.
ギュッ
LET'S DO IT AGAIN...!

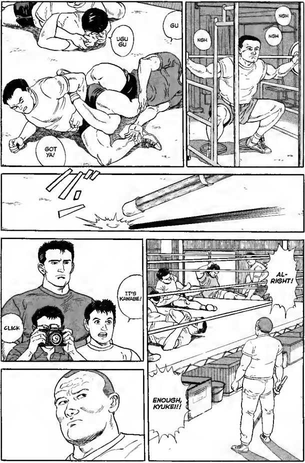

ズー
ズー
ズー
THE MAN SMELLED OF A BEAST AND HIMEKAWA WANTED TO MEET HIM ONCE MORE.
...THAT HULKING FIGURE OF BUNSHICHI'S LOOMED IN HIMEKAWA'S MIND.
あっ
あああああ

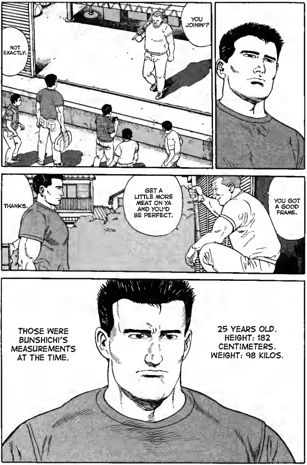

ガッ
CH-
NOT FUN AT ALL.
WHY'RE YA WATCHIN' IT?
IT'S ALL SCRIPTED ANYWAY, RIGHT?
WOO OOT!
IT'S FIXED?

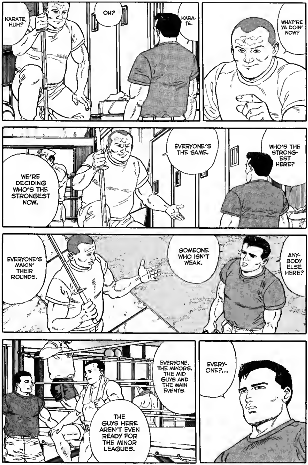

......
I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
IT IS.
WH... WHAT'S WRONG?
BUT THERE'S SOMETHIN' ELSE I DO KNOW.
KAJIWARA'S FINALLY BACK IN FORM.
WOULDN'T YOU SAY MR. KAWABE?
SOME AMONGST THEM ARE ACTUALLY STRONG.
AND THAT IS-

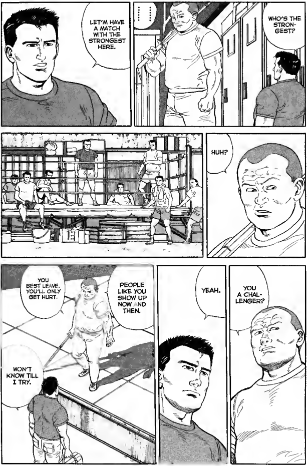

HAVING THE TITLE TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM IN AMERICA MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH.
I'D THINK SO.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE HIM BACK.
CRACK!
...MIS-TER.
......
IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE IF HE DID RETURN HOME WITH IT.
IT'S HIM...

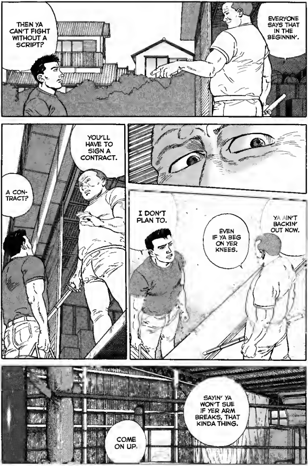

SUMMER... AT A CONFINED DOJO.
ISN'T THAT YAMADA?
CLICK
CLICK
LOOK, IT'S FUJIKI.

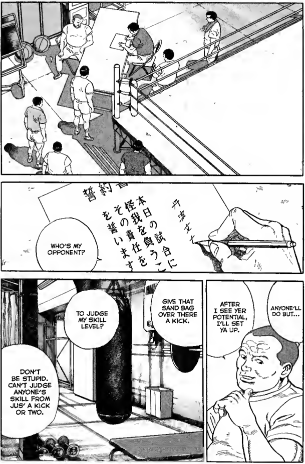

UGU GU
GU
GOT YA!
NGH
NGH
NGH
IT'S KAWABE!
CLICK
AL-RIGHT!
ENOUGH, KYUKEI!!

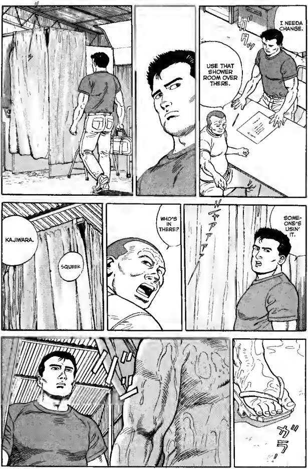

YOU JOININ'?
NOT EXACTLY.
YOU GOT A GOOD FRAME.
GET A LITTLE MORE MEAT ON YA AND YOU'D BE PERFECT.
THANKS.
25 YEARS OLD. HEIGHT: 182 CENTIMETERS. WEIGHT: 98 KILOS.
THOSE WERE BUNSHICHI'S MEASUREMENTS AT THE TIME.

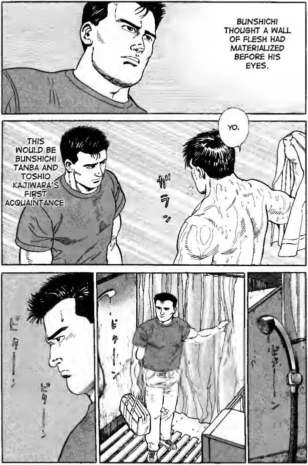

WHAT'RE YA DOIN' NOW?
KARATE.
OH?
KARATE, HUH?
WHO'S THE STRONGEST HERE?
EVERYONE'S THE SAME.
WE'RE DECIDING WHO'S THE STRONGEST NOW.
ANYBODY ELSE HERE?
SOMEONE WHO ISN'T WEAK.
EVERYONE'S MAKIN' THEIR ROUNDS.
EVERYONE?...
EVERYONE. THE MINORS, THE MID GUYS AND THE MAIN EVENTS.
THE GUYS HERE AREN'T EVEN READY FOR THE MINOR LEAGUES.

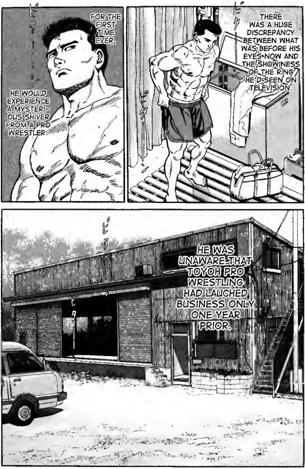

WHO'S THE STRONGEST?
....
LET'M HAVE A MATCH WITH THE STRONGEST HERE.
HUH?
YOU A CHALLENGER?
YEAH.
PEOPLE LIKE YOU SHOW UP NOW AND THEN.
YOU BEST LEAVE. YOU'LL ONLY GET HURT.
WON'T KNOW TILL I TRY.


THEN YA CAN'T FIGHT WITHOUT A SCRIPT?
EVERYONE SAYS THAT IN THE BEGINNIN'.
YOU'LL HAVE TO SIGN A CONTRACT.
A CONTRACT?
YA AIN'T BACKIN' OUT NOW.
EVEN IF YA BEG ON YER KNEES.
I DON'T PLAN TO.
SAYIN' YA WON'T SUE IF YER ARM BREAKS, THAT KINDA THING.
COME ON UP.


誓約書
丹波文七
本日の試合に
怪我を負うこ
その責任を
を誓います
WHO'S MY OPPONENT?
ANYONE'LL DO BUT...
AFTER I SEE YER POTENTIAL, I'LL SET YA UP.
GIVE THAT SAND BAG OVER THERE A KICK.
TO JUDGE MY SKILL LEVEL?
DON'T BE STUPID. CAN'T JUDGE ANYONE'S SKILL FROM JUS' A KICK OR TWO.

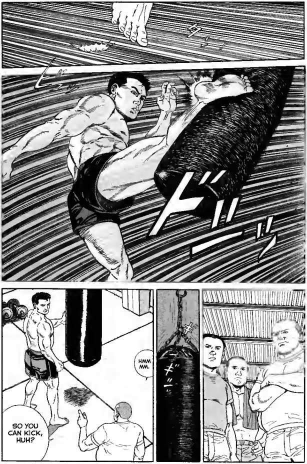

ガタッ
I NEEDA CHANGE.
USE THAT SHOWER ROOM OVER THERE.
シャアア
SOME-ONE'S USIN' IT.
WHO'S IN THERE?
KAJIWARA.
SQUEEK
ガラ

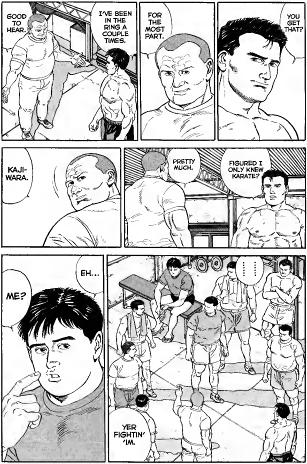

BUNSHICHI THOUGHT A WALL OF FLESH HAD MATERIALIZED BEFORE HIS EYES.
YO.
ガラッ
THIS WOULD BE BUNSHICHI TANBA AND TOSHIO KAJIWARA'S FIRST ACQUAINTANCE.
ピターン
ピターン
ピターン
ピターン

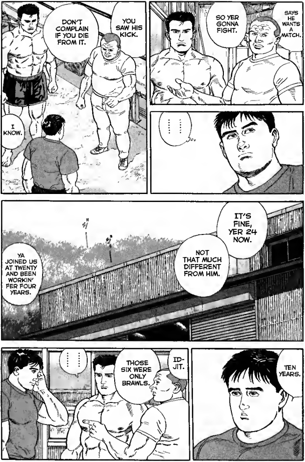

ピタ———
FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER,
HE WOULD EXPERIENCE A MYSTERIOUS SHIVER FROM A PRO WRESTLER.
ピタ
ピタ
THERE WAS A HUGE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WHAT WAS BEFORE HIS EYES NOW AND THE SHOWINESS OF THE RING HE'D SEEN ON TELEVISION.
ピタ
ピタ
HE WAS UNAWARE THAT TOYOH PRO WRESTLING HAD LAUCHED BUSINESS ONLY ONE YEAR PRIOR.

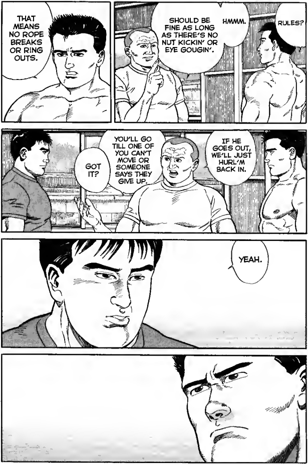
THIRD PAST

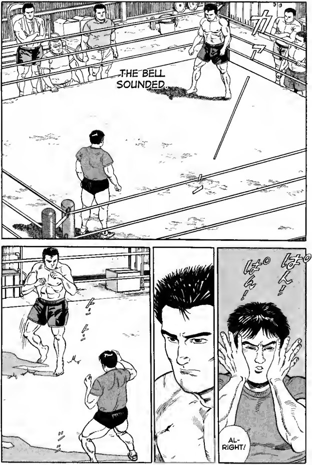
PART TWO

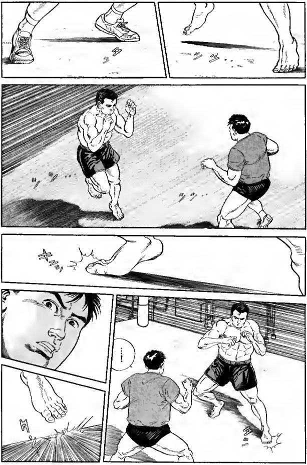

タッ
ビュッ
ドーッ
ギッ
ギーッ
HMM MM.
SO YOU CAN KICK, HUH?

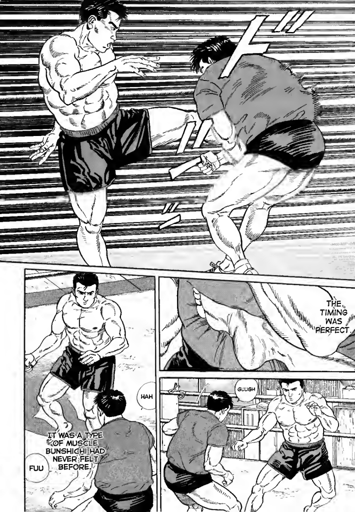

YOU GET THAT?
FOR THE MOST PART.
I'VE BEEN IN THE RING A COUPLE TIMES.
GOOD TO HEAR.
FIGURED I ONLY KNEW KARATE?
PRETTY MUCH.
KAJI-WARA.
......
YER FIGHTIN' 'IM.
EH...
ME?

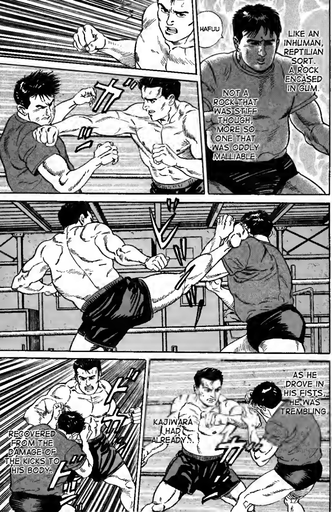

SAYS HE WANTS A MATCH.
SO YER GONNA FIGHT.
......
YOU SAW HIS KICK.
DON'T COMPLAIN IF YOU DIE FROM IT.
I KNOW.
IT'S FINE, YER 24 NOW.
NOT THAT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM HIM.
YA JOINED US AT TWENTY AND BEEN WORKIN' FER FOUR YEARS.
TEN YEARS.
ID-JIT.
THOSE SIX WERE ONLY BRAWLS.
......

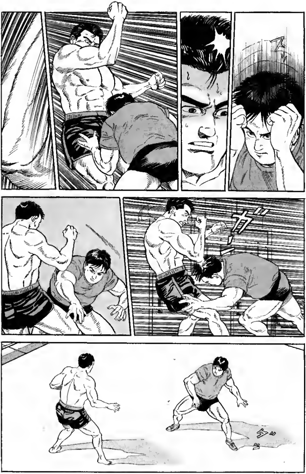

RULES?
HMMM.
SHOULD BE FINE AS LONG AS THERE'S NO NUT KICKIN' OR EYE GOUGIN'.
THAT MEANS NO ROPE BREAKS OR RING OUTS.
IF HE GOES OUT, WE'LL JUST HURL'M BACK IN.
YOU'LL GO TILL ONE OF YOU CAN'T MOVE OR SOMEONE SAYS THEY GIVE UP.
GOT IT?
YEAH.

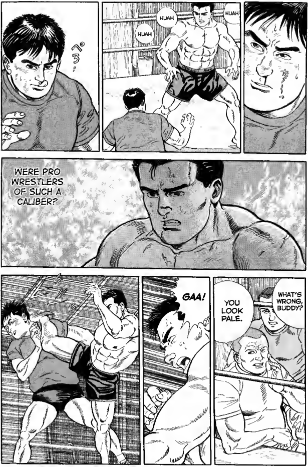

カァ
THE BELL SOUNDED.
ぱん!
ぱん!
AL-RIGHT!

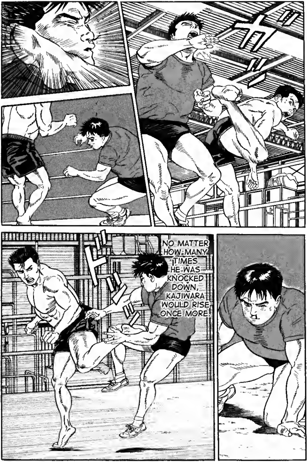

ツ ツ‥
タッ
ツ ツ‥
ツ ツ‥
キュッ
…!
ダッ
ダーン

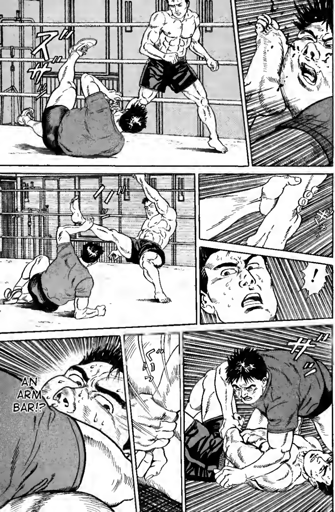

ドッ
THE TIMING WAS PERFECT.
GUUGH
HAH
IT WAS A TYPE OF MUSCLE BUNSHICHI HAD NEVER FELT BEFORE.
FUU

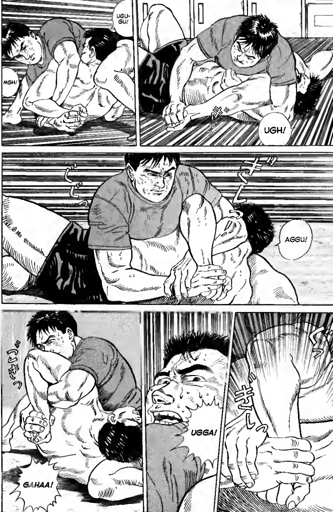

HAFUU
LIKE AN INHUMAN, REPTILIAN SORT. A ROCK ENCASED IN GUM.
NOT A ROCK THAT WAS STIFF THOUGH, MORE SO ONE THAT WAS ODDLY MALLIABLE.
AS HE DROVE IN HIS FISTS, HE WAS TREMBLING.
KAJIWARA HAD ALREADY...
RECOVERED FROM THE DAMAGE OF THE KICKS TO HIS BODY.

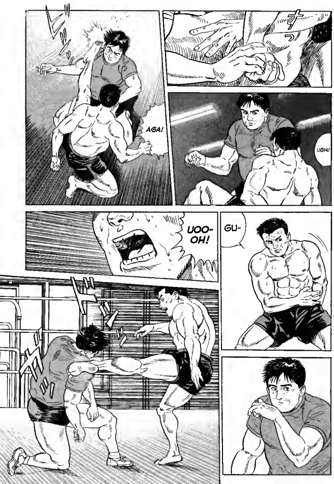

ズッ
ガッ
ザッ

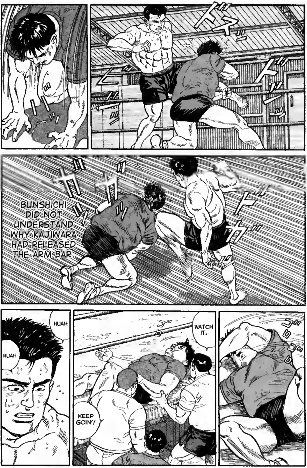

ペろ
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
WERE PRO WRESTLERS OF SUCH A CALIBER?
GAA!
WHAT'S WRONG, BUDDY?
YOU LOOK PALE.

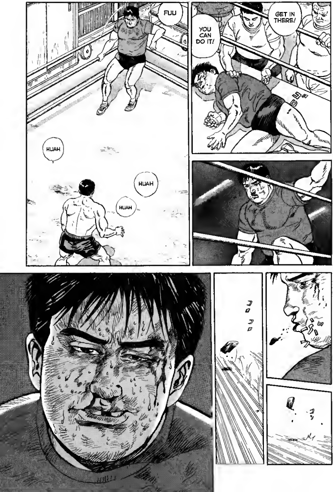

ガッ
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES HE WAS KNOCKED DOWN, KAJIWARA WOULD RISE ONCE MORE.
ドッ

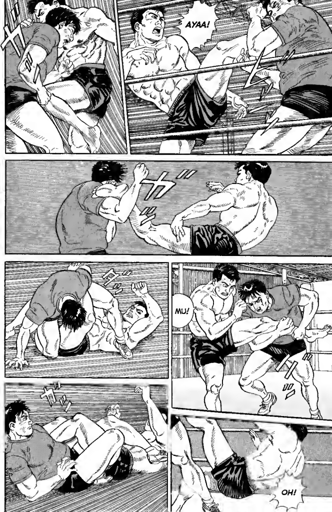

ズザッ
ギュッ
!
AN ARM BAR!?
ぐいっ
ザザッ

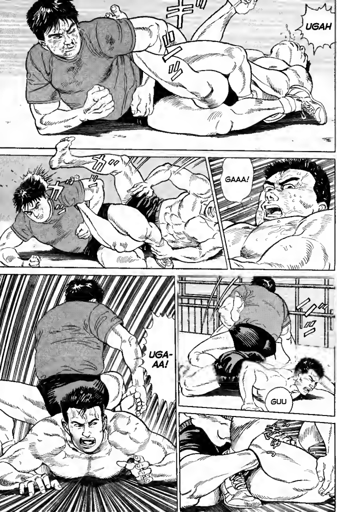

ギッ
UGH!
UGU-GU!
MGH!
ギしっ
AGGU!
じじっ
ぐっ
ぎしっ
UGGA!
ごきっ
GAHAA!

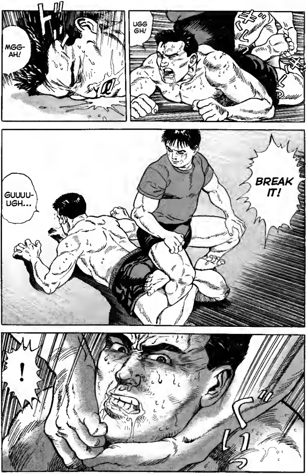

すっ
ビシッ
AGA!
UGH!
GU-
UOO-OH!
ドッ
ガッ


BUNSHICHI DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY KAJIWARA HAD RELEASED THE ARM BAR.
HUAH
HUAH
WATCH IT.
KEEP GOIN'!


GET IN THERE!
YOU CAN DO IT!
ゴロ!
FUU
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
コッ
コロ コロ

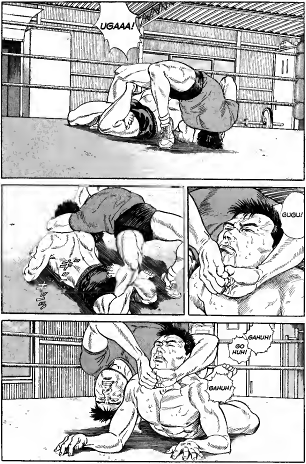

AYAA!
ガッ
MU!
ダッ
OH!
ガッ

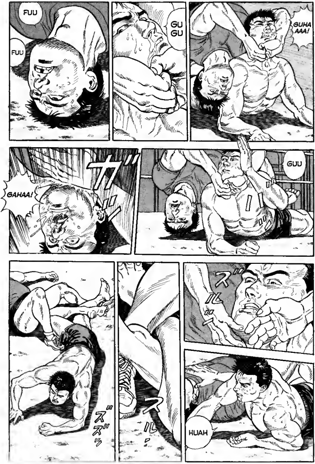

UGAH
ギ
GAAA!
UGA-AA!
GUU

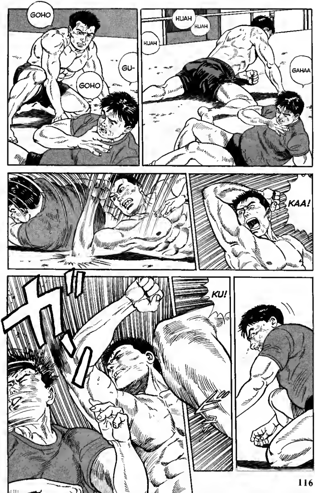

UGG GH!
MGG-AH!
BREAK IT!
GUUUU-UGH...
!

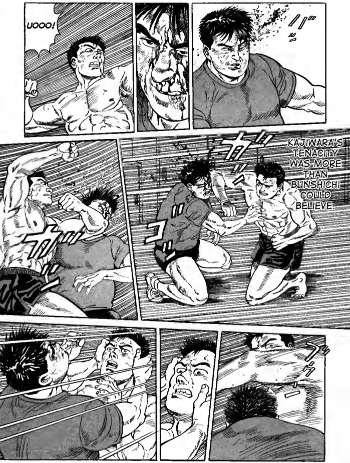
THIRD PAST

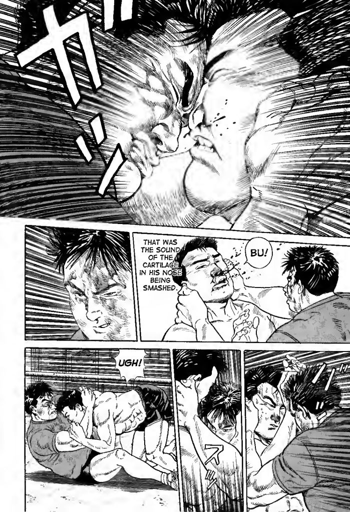
PART THREE

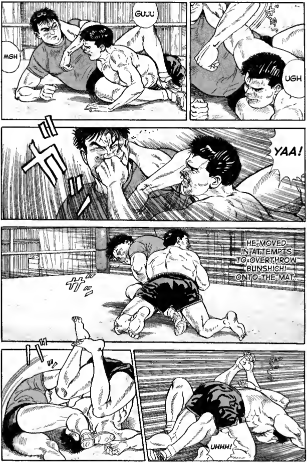

UGAAA!
GUGU!
ギ
ギーッ
GAHUH!
GO HUH!
GAHUH!

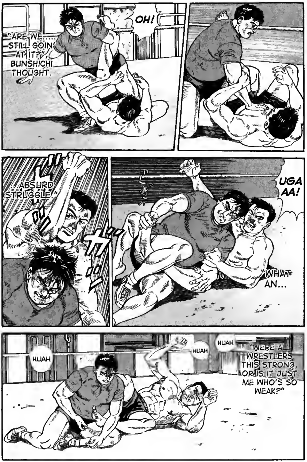

FUU
FUU
GU GU
GUHA AAA!
GAHAA!
ガ ガ
GUU
ズズッ
スル
ズルー
HUAH

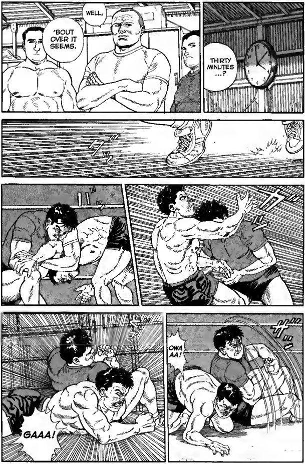

HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
GAHAA
GOHO
GU-
GOHO
KAA!
KU!

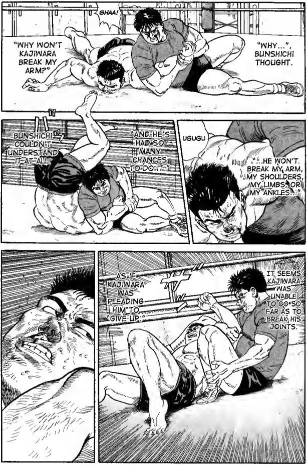

UOOO!
KAJIWARA'S TENACITY WAS MORE THAN BUNSHICHI COULD BELIEVE.

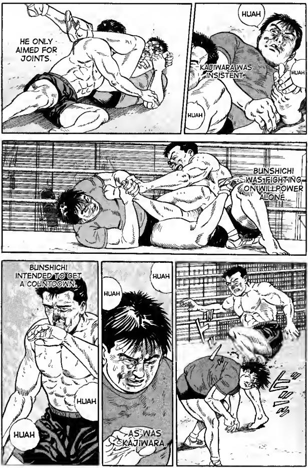

ガッ
THAT WAS THE SOUND OF THE CARTILAGE IN HIS NOSE BEING SMASHED.
BU!
UGH!
スッ

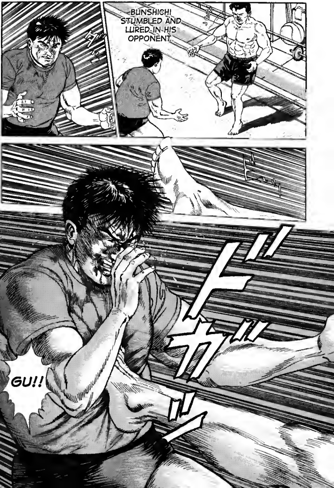

UGH
GUUU
MGH
YAA!
HE MOVED IN ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW BUNSHICHI ONTO THE MAT.
UHHH!

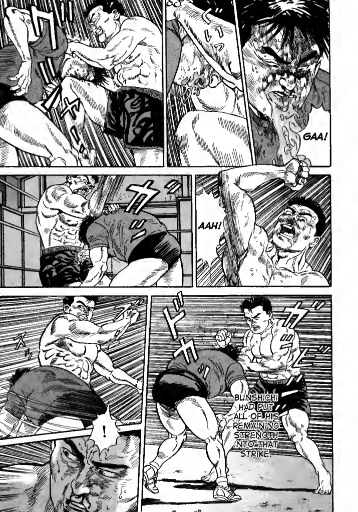

OH!
"ARE WE STILL GOIN' AT IT?", BUNSHICHI THOUGHT.
UGA AA!
"WHAT AN...
...ABSURD STRUGGLE"
"WERE ALL WRESTLERS THIS STRONG, OR IS IT JUST ME WHO'S SO WEAK?"
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH

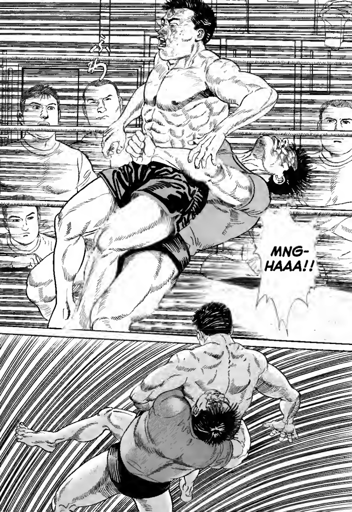

THIRTY MINUTES ...?
WELL,
'BOUT OVER IT SEEMS.
OWA AA!
GAAA!

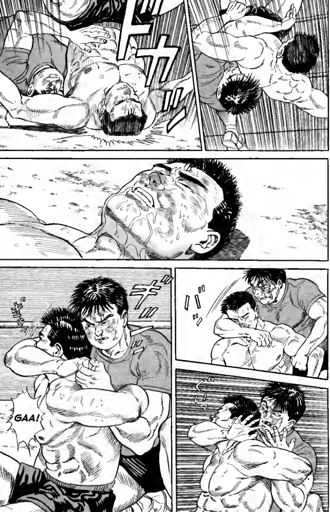

GHAA!
"WHY...", BUNSHICHI THOUGHT.
"WHY WON'T KAJIWARA BREAK MY ARM?"
UGUGU
"...HE WON'T BREAK MY ARM, MY SHOULDERS, MY LIMBS, OR MY ANKLES..."
"AND HE'S HAD SO MANY CHANCES TO DO IT."
BUNSHICHI COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT AT ALL.
IT SEEMS KAJIWARA WAS UNABLE TO GO SO FAR AS TO BREAK HIS JOINTS.
AS IF KAJIWARA WAS PLEADING HIM TO GIVE UP."

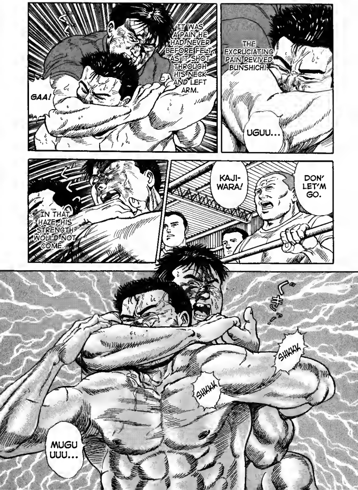

HE ONLY AIMED FOR JOINTS.
HUAH
KAJIWARA WAS INSISTENT.
HUAH
HUAH
BUNSHICHI WAS FIGHTING ON WILLPOWER ALONE.
BUNSHICHI INTENDED TO GET A COUNTDOWN.
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
AS WAS KAJIWARA.

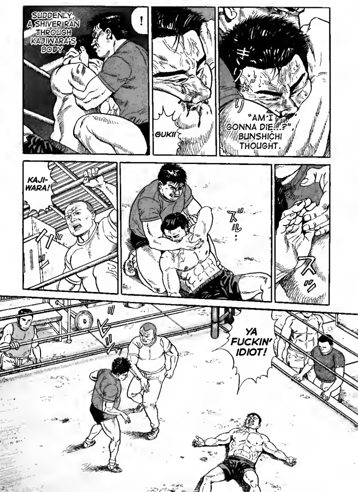

BUNSHICHI STUMBLED AND LURED IN HIS OPPONENT
ビュッ
ドガッ
GU!!

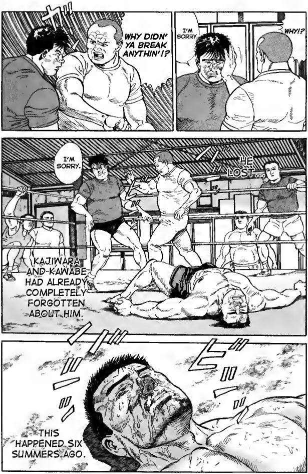

グシャー
ぐいっ
GAA!
カッ
AAH!
スッ
!
ドガッ
ガゴン
BUNSHICHI HAD PUT ALL OF HIS REMAINING STRENGTH INTO THAT STRIKE.

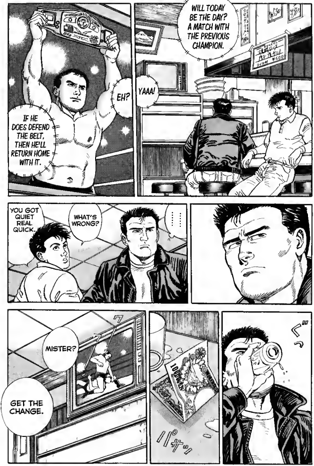

MNG-
HAAA!!
ふわ

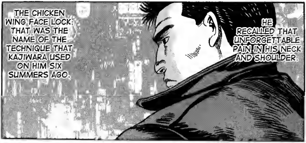

ドカッ
バッ
ぐいっ
ギュ
ぎゅ
GAA!

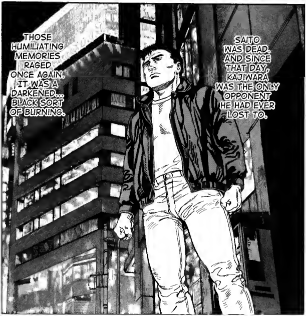

IT WAS A PAIN HE HAD NEVER BEFORE FELT, AS IT SHOT THROUGH HIS NECK AND LEFT ARM.
GAA!
THE EXCRUCIATING PAIN REVIVED BUNSHICHI!
UGUU...
IN THAT HAZE, HIS STRENGTH WOULD NOT COME.
KAJI-WARA!
DON' LET'M GO.
SHKKK
SHKKK
MUGU UUU...


ぎりぎり
"AM I GONNA DIE...?", BUNSHICHI THOUGHT.
GUKI!
!
SUDDENLY, A SHIVER RAN THROUGH KAJIWARA'S BODY
スッ
ズル…
KAJIWARA!
バッ
ビュッ
YA FUCKIN' IDIOT!


WHY DIDN' YA BREAK ANYTHIN'!?
I'M SORRY.
WHY!?
I'M SORRY.
HE LOST...
KAJIWARA AND KAWABE HAD ALREADY COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM.
THIS HAPPENED SIX SUMMERS AGO.


WILL TODAY BE THE DAY? A MATCH WITH THE PREVIOUS CHAMPION.
YAAA!
EH?
IF HE DOES DEFEND THE BELT, THEN HE'LL RETURN HOME WITH IT.
YOU GOT QUIET REAL QUICK.
WHAT'S WRONG?
…
MISTER?
GET THE CHANGE.
10000 YEN
パサッ
ぐっ

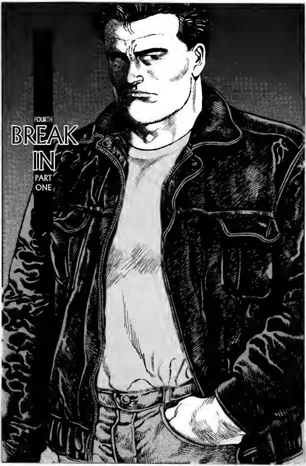

THE CHICKEN WING FACE LOCK: THAT WAS THE NAME OF THE TECHNIQUE THAT KAJIWARA USED ON HIM SIX SUMMERS AGO.
HE RECALLED THAT UNFORGETTABLE PAIN IN HIS NECK AND SHOULDER.

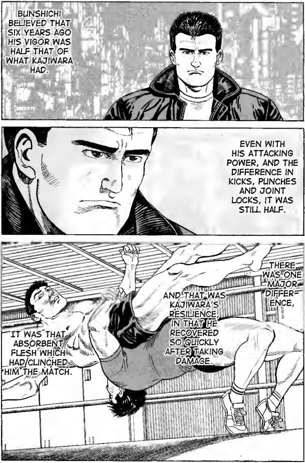

THOSE HUMILIATING MEMORIES RAGED ONCE AGAIN. IT WAS A DARKENED... BLACK SORT OF BURNING.
SAITO WAS DEAD. AND SINCE THAT DAY, KAJIWARA WAS THE ONLY OPPONENT HE HAD EVER LOST TO.

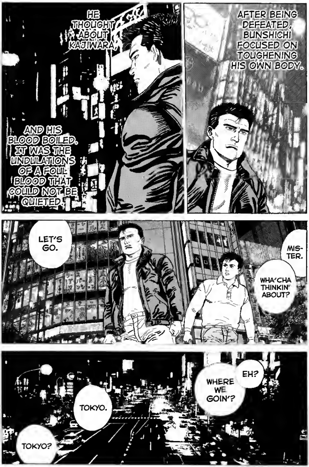
FOURTH

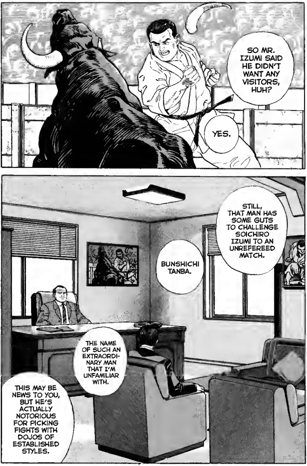
BREAK IN

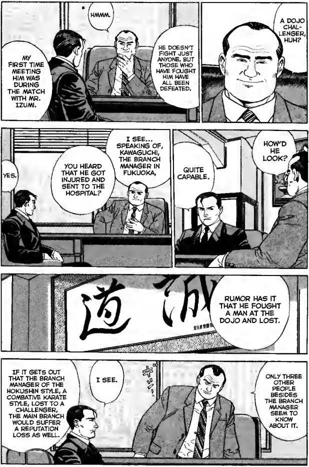
PART ONE

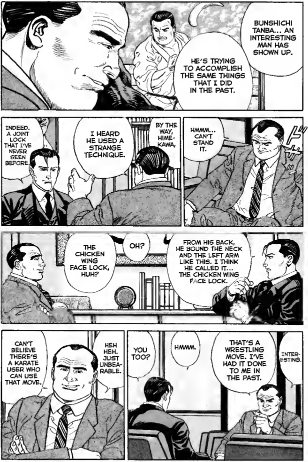


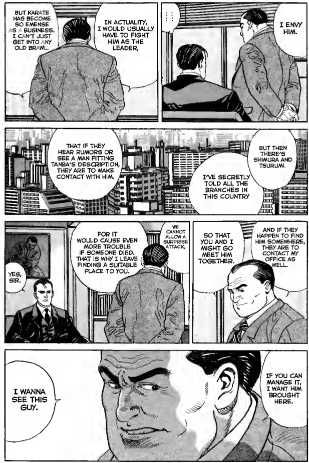

BUNSHICHI BELIEVED THAT SIX YEARS AGO HIS VIGOR WAS HALF THAT OF WHAT KAJIWARA HAD.
EVEN WITH HIS ATTACKING POWER, AND THE DIFFERENCE IN KICKS, PUNCHES AND JOINT LOCKS, IT WAS STILL HALF.
THERE WAS ONE MAJOR DIFFERENCE,
AND THAT WAS KAJIWARA'S RESILIENCE, IN THAT HE RECOVERED SO QUICKLY AFTER TAKING DAMAGE.
IT WAS THAT ABSORBENT FLESH WHICH HAD CLINCHED HIM THE MATCH.

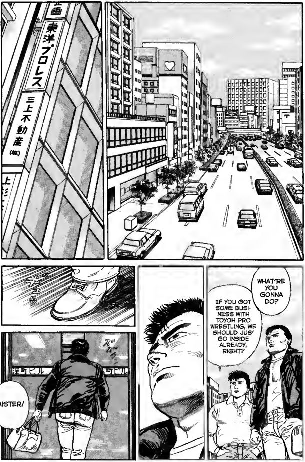

AFTER BEING DEFEATED, BUNSHICHI FOCUSED ON TOUGHENING HIS OWN BODY.
HE THOUGHT ABOUT KAJIWARA,
AND HIS BLOOD BOILED. IT WAS THE UNDULATIONS OF A FOUL BLOOD THAT COULD NOT BE QUIETED.
MISTER.
WHA'CHA THINKIN' ABOUT?
LET'S GO.
EH?
WHERE WE GOIN'?
TOKYO.
TOKYO?

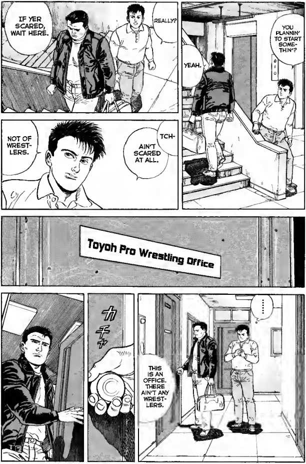

SO MR. IZUMI SAID HE DIDN'T WANT ANY VISITORS, HUH?
YES.
STILL, THAT MAN HAS SOME GUTS TO CHALLENGE SOICHIRO IZUMI TO AN UNREFEREED MATCH.
BUNSHICHI TANBA.
THE NAME OF SUCH AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN THAT I'M UNFAMILIAR WITH.
THIS MAY BE NEWS TO YOU, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY NOTORIOUS FOR PICKING FIGHTS WITH DOJOS OF ESTABLISHED STYLES.

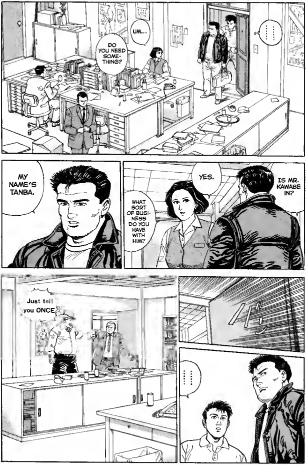

A DOJO CHALLENGER, HUH?
HE DOESN'T FIGHT JUST ANYONE, BUT THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT HIM HAVE ALL BEEN DEFEATED.
HMMM.
MY FIRST TIME MEETING HIM WAS DURING THE MATCH WITH MR. IZUMI.
HOW'D HE LOOK?
QUITE CAPABLE.
I SEE... SPEAKING OF, KAWAGUCHI, THE BRANCH MANAGER IN FUKUOKA,
YOU HEARD THAT HE GOT INJURED AND SENT TO THE HOSPITAL?
YES.
RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE FOUGHT A MAN AT THE DOJO AND LOST.
道
ONLY THREE OTHER PEOPLE BESIDES THE BRANCH MANAGER SEEM TO KNOW ABOUT IT.
I SEE.
IF IT GETS OUT THAT THE BRANCH MANAGER OF THE HOKUSHIN STYLE, A COMBATIVE KARATE STYLE, LOST TO A CHALLENGER, THE MAIN BRANCH WOULD SUFFER A REPUTATION LOSS AS WELL.

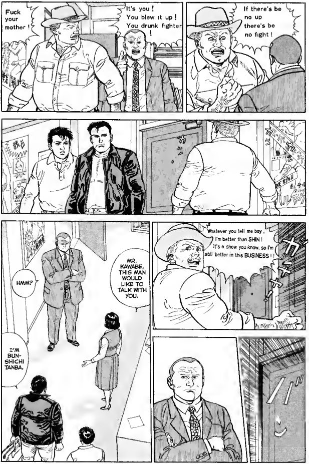

BUNSHICHI TANBA... AN INTERESTING MAN HAS SHOWN UP.
HE'S TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH THE SAME THINGS THAT I DID IN THE PAST.
BY THE WAY, HIMEKAWA,
I HEARD HE USED A STRANGE TECHNIQUE.
INDEED. A JOINT LOCK THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
HMMM... CAN'T STAND IT.
ドド
FROM HIS BACK, HE BOUND THE NECK AND THE LEFT ARM LIKE THIS. I THINK HE CALLED IT... THE CHICKEN WING FACE LOCK.
OH?
THE CHICKEN WING FACE LOCK, HUH?
CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S A KARATE USER WHO CAN USE THAT MOVE.
HEH HEH. JUST UNBEARABLE.
INTERESTING.
THAT'S A WRESTLING MOVE. I'VE HAD IT DONE TO ME IN THE PAST.
HMMM.
YOU TOO?

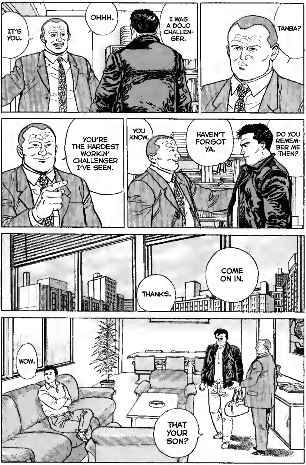

I ENVY HIM.
…
IN ACTUALITY, I WOULD USUALLY HAVE TO FIGHT HIM AS THE LEADER,
BUT KARATE HAS BECOME SO EMENSE AS A BUSINESS. I CAN'T JUST GET INTO ANY OLD BRAWL.
BUT THEN THERE'S SHIMURA AND TSURUMI.
I'VE SECRETLY TOLD ALL THE BRANCHES IN THIS COUNTRY
THAT IF THEY HEAR RUMORS OR SEE A MAN FITTING TANBA'S DESCRIPTION, THEY ARE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH HIM.
AND IF THEY HAPPEN TO FIND HIM SOMEWHERE, THEY ARE TO CONTACT MY OFFICE AS WELL.
SO THAT YOU AND I MIGHT GO MEET HIM TOGETHER.
WE CANNOT ALLOW A SURPRISE ATTACK,
FOR IT WOULD CAUSE EVEN MORE TROUBLE IF SOMEONE DIED. THAT IS WHY I LEAVE FINDING A SUITABLE PLACE TO YOU.
YES, SIR.
IF YOU CAN MANAGE IT, I WANT HIM BROUGHT HERE.
I WANNA SEE THIS GUY.

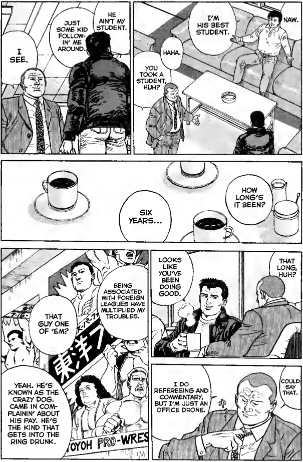

東洋・プロレス
三上不動産(株)
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?
IF YOU GOT SOME BUSINESS WITH TOYOH PRO WRESTLING, WE SHOULD JUS' GO INSIDE ALREADY, RIGHT?
MISTER!

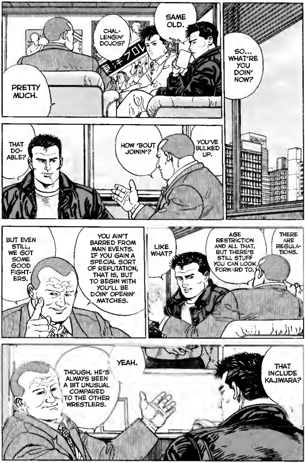

IF YER SCARED, WAIT HERE.
REALLY?
YOU PLANNIN' TO START SOMETHIN'?
YEAH.
TCH- AIN'T SCARED AT ALL.
NOT OF WRESTLERS.
Toyoh Pro Wrestling Office
カチャ
......
THIS IS AN OFFICE. THERE AIN'T ANY WRESTLERS.

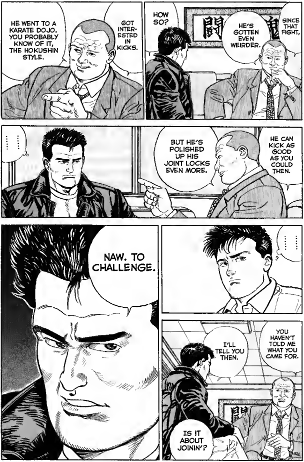

UM...
DO YOU NEED SOMETHING?
......
MY NAME'S TANBA.
IS MR. KAWABE IN?
YES.
WHAT SORT OF BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH HIM?
Just tell you ONCE
バン
......

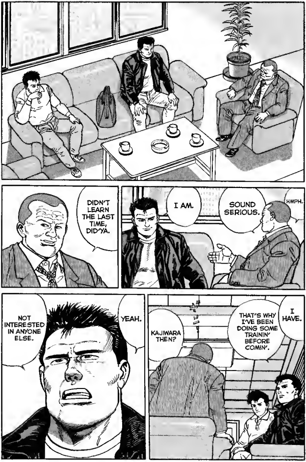

Fuck your mother !
It's you ! You blew it up ! You drunk fighter !
If there's be no up there's be no fight !
Whatever you tell me boy , I'm better than SHIN ! It's a show you know, so I'm still better in this BUSINESS ! !
MR. KAWABE, THIS MAN WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU.
HMM?
I'M BUN-SHICHI TANBA.

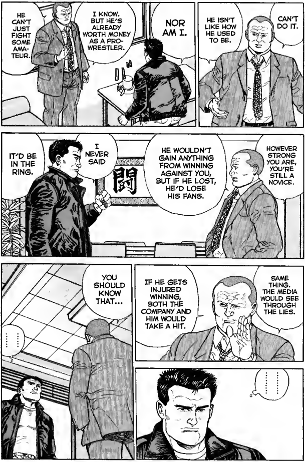

TANBA?
I WAS A DOJO CHALLENGER.
OHHH.
IT'S YOU.
DO YOU REMEMBER ME THEN?
HAVEN'T FORGOT YA.
YOU KNOW,
YOU'RE THE HARDEST WORKIN' CHALLENGER I'VE SEEN.
COME ON IN.
THANKS.
THAT YOUR SON?
WOW.

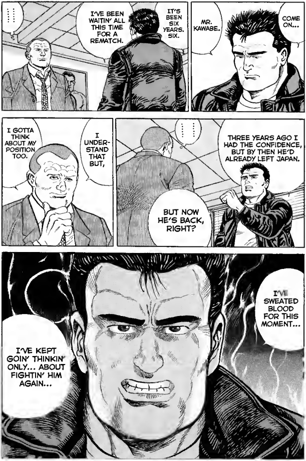

I'M HIS BEST STUDENT.
NAW.
HAHA.
YOU TOOK A STUDENT, HUH?
HE AIN'T MY STUDENT.
JUST SOME KID FOLLOWIN' ME AROUND.
I SEE.
HOW LONG'S IT BEEN?
SIX YEARS...
THAT LONG, HUH?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN DOING GOOD.
COULD SAY THAT.
I DO REFEREEING AND COMMENTARY, BUT I'M JUST AN OFFICE DRONE.
BEING ASSOCIATED WITH FOREIGN LEAGUES HAVE MULTIPLIED MY TROUBLES.
THAT GUY ONE OF 'EM?
YEAH. HE'S KNOWN AS THE CRAZY DOG. CAME IN COMPLAININ' ABOUT HIS PAY. HE'S THE KIND THAT GETS INTO THE RING DRUNK.
東洋プ
TOYOH PRO-WRES


SO... WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' NOW?
SAME OLD.
CHALLENGIN' DOJOS?
PRETTY MUCH.
YOU'VE BULKED UP.
HOW 'BOUT JOININ'?
THAT DO-ABLE?
THERE ARE REGULATIONS.
AGE RESTRICTION AND ALL THAT, BUT THERE'S STILL STUFF YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO.
LIKE WHAT?
YOU AIN'T BARRED FROM MAIN EVENTS. IF YOU GAIN A SPECIAL SORT OF REPUTATION, THAT IS, BUT TO BEGIN WITH YOU'LL BE DOIN' OPENIN' MATCHES.
BUT EVEN STILL, WE GOT SOME GOOD FIGHTERS.
THAT INCLUDE KAJIWARA?
YEAH.
THOUGH, HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A BIT UNUSUAL COMPARED TO THE OTHER WRESTLERS.


SINCE THAT FIGHT,
HE'S GOTTEN EVEN WEIRDER.
HOW SO?
GOT INTERESTED IN KICKS.
HE WENT TO A KARATE DOJO. YOU PROBABLY KNOW OF IT, THE HOKUSHIN STYLE.
HE CAN KICK AS GOOD AS YOU COULD THEN.
BUT HE'S POLISHED UP HIS JOINT LOCKS EVEN MORE.
......
......
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHAT YOU CAME FOR.
I'LL TELL YOU THEN.
IS IT ABOUT JOININ'?
NAW. TO CHALLENGE.


HMPH.
SOUND SERIOUS.
I AM.
DIDN'T LEARN THE LAST TIME, DID'YA.
I HAVE.
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN DOING SOME TRAININ' BEFORE COMIN'.
KAJIWARA THEN?
YEAH.
NOT INTERESTED IN ANYONE ELSE.

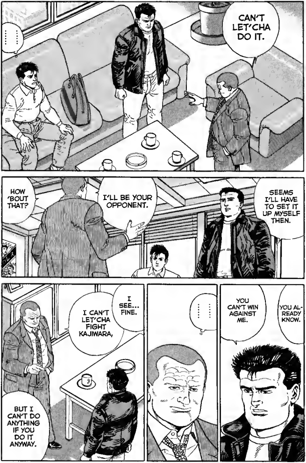

CAN'T DO IT.
HE ISN'T LIKE HOW HE USED TO BE.
NOR AM I.
I KNOW. BUT HE'S ALREADY WORTH MONEY AS A PRO-WRESTLER.
HE CAN'T JUST FIGHT SOME AMATEUR.
HOWEVER STRONG YOU ARE, YOU'RE STILL A NOVICE.
HE WOULDN'T GAIN ANYTHING FROM WINNING AGAINST YOU, BUT IF HE LOST, HE'D LOSE HIS FANS.
闘
I NEVER SAID
IT'D BE IN THE RING.
SAME THING. THE MEDIA WOULD SEE THROUGH THE LIES.
IF HE GETS INJURED WINNING, BOTH THE COMPANY AND HIM WOULD TAKE A HIT.
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT...
......
......

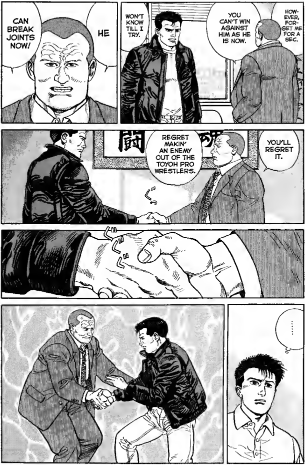

COME ON...
MR. KAWABE.
IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS. SIX.
I'VE BEEN WAITIN' ALL THIS TIME FOR A REMATCH.
......
THREE YEARS AGO I HAD THE CONFIDENCE, BUT BY THEN HE'D ALREADY LEFT JAPAN.
......
BUT NOW HE'S BACK, RIGHT?
I UNDERSTAND THAT BUT,
I GOTTA THINK ABOUT MY POSITION TOO.
I'VE SWEATED BLOOD FOR THIS MOMENT...
I'VE KEPT GOIN' THINKIN' ONLY... ABOUT FIGHTIN' HIM AGAIN...

FOURTH

BREAK IN

PART TWO


CAN'T LET'CHA DO IT.
……
SEEMS I'LL HAVE TO SET IT UP MYSELF THEN.
I'LL BE YOUR OPPONENT.
HOW 'BOUT THAT?
YOU ALREADY KNOW.
YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST ME.
……
I SEE... FINE.
I CAN'T LET'CHA FIGHT KAJIWARA,
BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING IF YOU DO IT ANYWAY.


HOWEVER, FORGET ME FOR A SEC.
YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST HIM AS HE IS NOW.
WON'T KNOW TILL I TRY.
HE
CAN BREAK JOINTS NOW!
YOU'LL REGRET IT.
REGRET MAKIN' AN ENEMY OUT OF THE TOYOH PRO WRESTLERS.
闘
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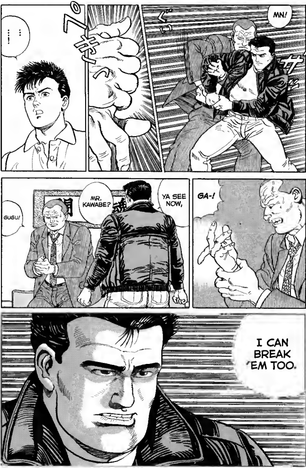
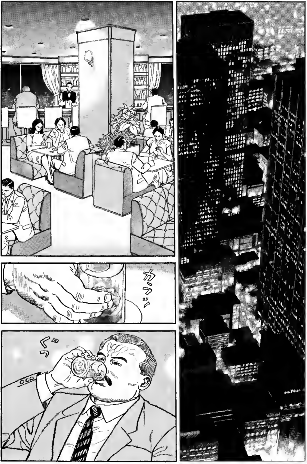
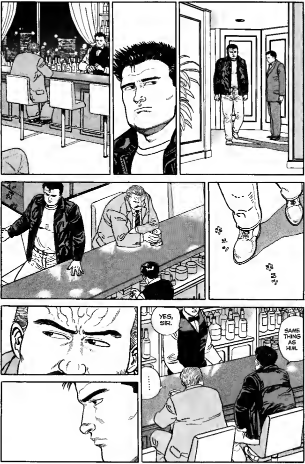
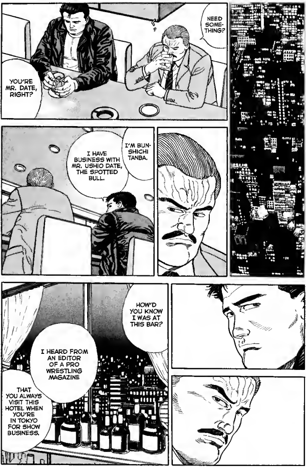
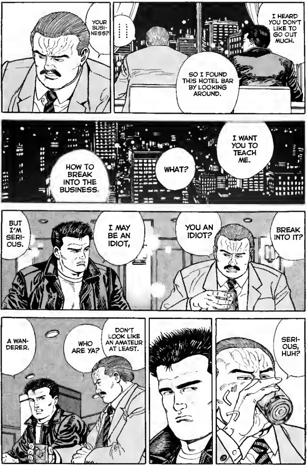
......

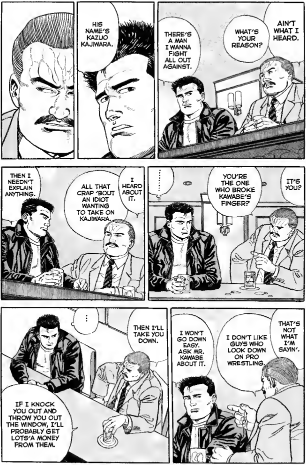

MN!
ぐい
ザッ
ポキッ
…!
GA-!
YA SEE NOW,
MR. KAWABE?
GUGU!
I CAN BREAK 'EM TOO.

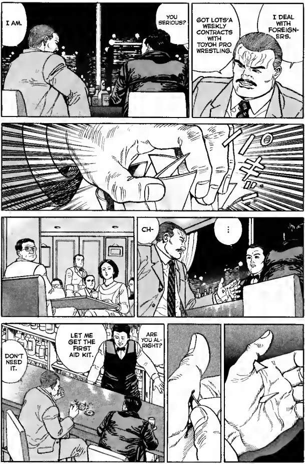

カラッ
ぐっ

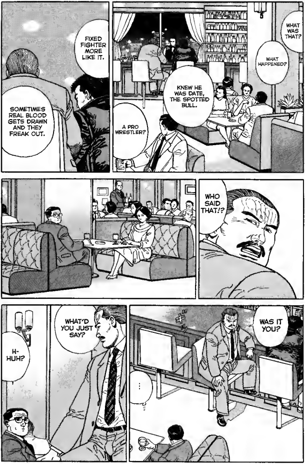

キュッ
キュッ
キュッ
SAME THING AS HIM.
YES, SIR.
......

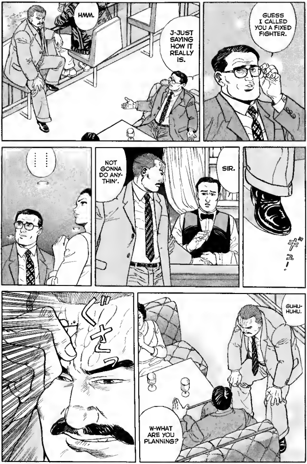

YOU'RE MR. DATE, RIGHT?
NEED SOMETHING?
I'M BUNSHICHI TANBA.
I HAVE BUSINESS WITH MR. USHIO DATE, THE SPOTTED BULL.
HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS AT THIS BAR?
I HEARD FROM AN EDITOR OF A PRO WRESTLING MAGAZINE
THAT YOU ALWAYS VISIT THIS HOTEL WHEN YOU'RE IN TOKYO FOR SHOW BUSINESS.

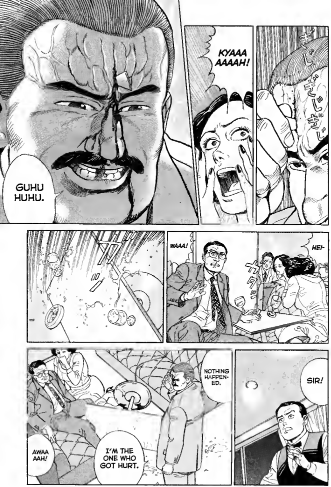

I HEARD YOU DON'T LIKE TO GO OUT MUCH.
SO I FOUND THIS HOTEL BAR BY LOOKING AROUND.
……
YOUR BUSINESS?
I WANT YOU TO TEACH ME.
WHAT?
HOW TO BREAK INTO THE BUSINESS.
BREAK INTO IT?
YOU AN IDIOT?
I MAY BE AN IDIOT,
BUT I'M SERIOUS.
SERIOUS, HUH?
DON'T LOOK LIKE AN AMATEUR AT LEAST.
WHO ARE YA?
A WANDERER.

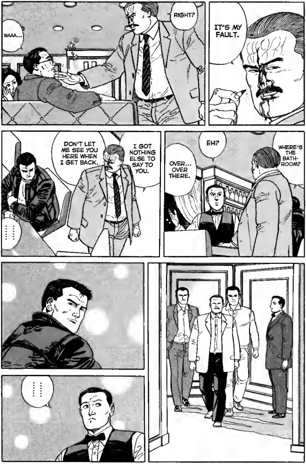

AIN'T WHAT I HEARD.
WHAT'S YOUR REASON?
THERE'S A MAN I WANNA FIGHT ALL OUT AGAINST.
HIS NAME'S KAZUO KAJIWARA.
IT'S YOU?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROKE KAWABE'S FINGER?
......
I HEARD ABOUT IT.
ALL THAT CRAP 'BOUT AN IDIOT WANTING TO TAKE ON KAJIWARA.
THEN I NEEDN'T EXPLAIN ANYTHING.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYIN'.
I DON'T LIKE GUYS WHO LOOK DOWN ON PRO WRESTLING.
I WON'T GO DOWN EASY. ASK MR. KAWABE ABOUT IT.
THEN I'LL TAKE YOU DOWN.
...
IF I KNOCK YOU OUT AND THROW YOU OUT THE WINDOW, I'LL PROBABLY GET LOTS'A MONEY FROM THEM.

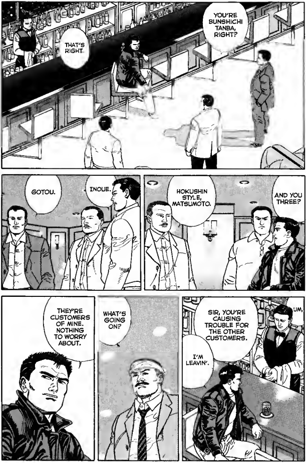

I DEAL WITH FOREIGNERS.
GOT LOTS'A WEEKLY CONTRACTS WITH TOYOH PRO WRESTLING.
YOU SERIOUS?
I AM.
パキッ
…
CH-
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
LET ME GET THE FIRST AID KIT.
DON'T NEED IT.

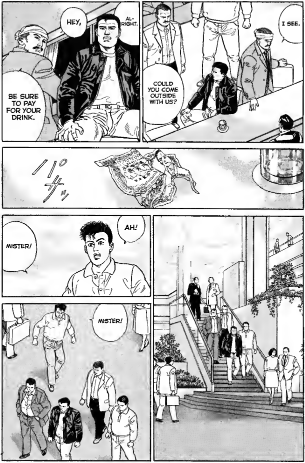

WHAT WAS THAT?
WHAT HAPPENED?
KNEW HE WAS DATE, THE SPOTTED BULL.
A PRO WRESTLER?
FIXED FIGHTER MORE LIKE IT.
SOMETIMES REAL BLOOD GETS DRAWN AND THEY FREAK OUT.
WHO SAID THAT!?
ギッ
WAS IT YOU?
...
WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY?
H-HUH?

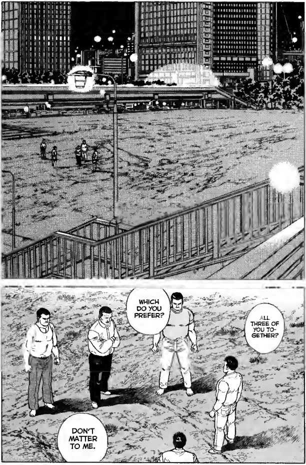

GUESS I CALLED YOU A FIXED FIGHTER.
J-JUST SAYING HOW IT REALLY IS.
HMM.
ギュ!
SIR.
NOT GONNA DO ANYTHIN'.
……
GUHU-HUHU.
W-WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
ぐさっ

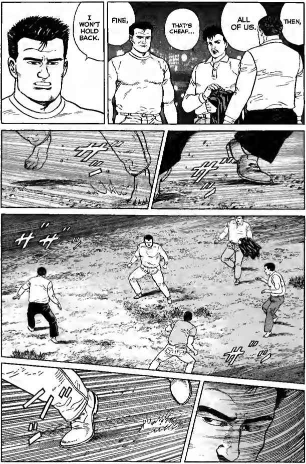

ぎじぎじぎじ
KYAAA AAAAH!
GUHU HUHU.
HEI-
ガタッ
WAAA!
ガッ
SIR!
NOTHING HAPPENED.
I'M THE ONE WHO GOT HURT.
AWAA AAH!

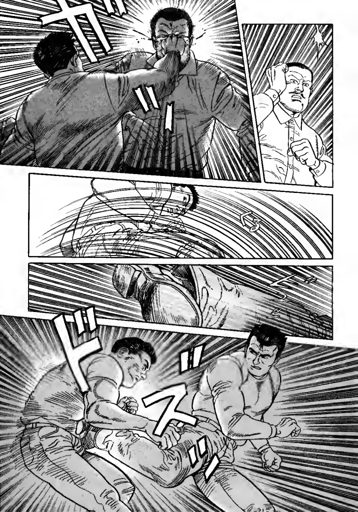

RIGHT?
WAAA...
IT'S MY FAULT.
DON'T LET ME SEE YOU HERE WHEN I GET BACK.
I GOT NOTHING ELSE TO SAY TO YOU.
......
WHERE'S THE BATH-ROOM?
EH?
OVER... OVER THERE.
......

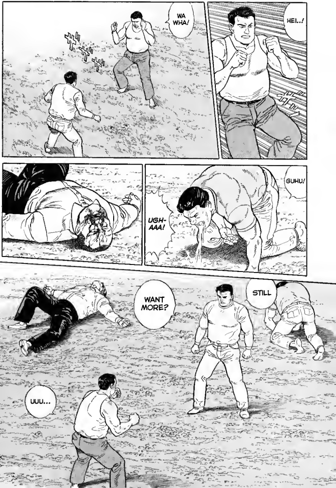

YOU'RE BUNSHICHI TANBA, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND YOU THREE?
HOKUSHIN STYLE, MATSUMOTO.
INOUE.
GOTOU.
UM,
SIR, YOU'RE CAUSING TROUBLE FOR THE OTHER CUSTOMERS.
I'M LEAVIN'.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THEY'RE CUSTOMERS OF MINE. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.


HEY,
BE SURE TO PAY FOR YOUR DRINK.
ALRIGHT.
COULD YOU COME OUTSIDE WITH US?
I SEE.
パサッ
MISTER!
AH!
MISTER!


WHICH DO YOU PREFER?
ALL THREE OF YOU TOGETHER?
DON'T MATTER TO ME.


THEN,
ALL OF US.
THAT'S CHEAP...
FINE,
I WON'T HOLD BACK.
ザッ
ザッ
ザザッ
ザッ

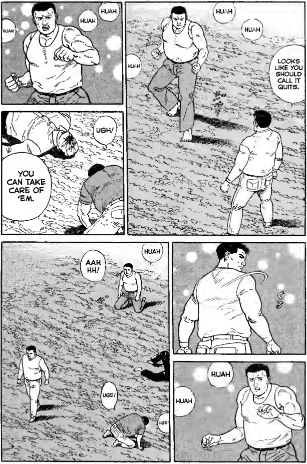

ガッ
ぐる
ビュッ
ドズッ

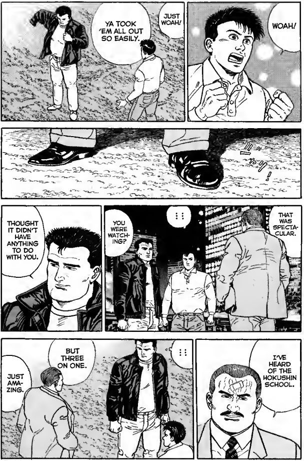

HEI..!
WA WHA!
GUHU!
UGH-AAA!
STILL
WANT MORE?
UUU...

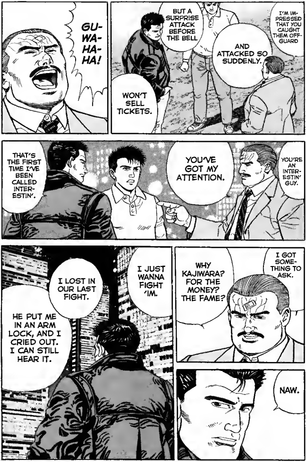
FOURTH

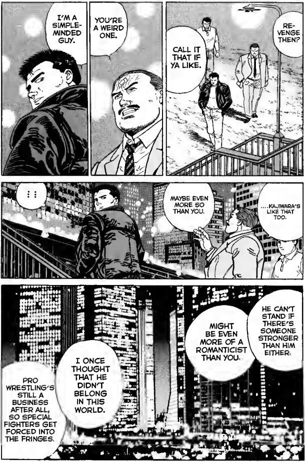
BREAK IN

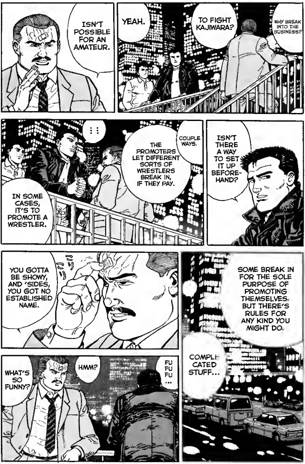
PART THREE

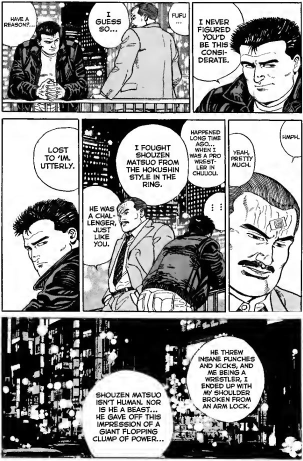

HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
LOOKS LIKE YOU SHOULD CALL IT QUITS.
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
UGH!
YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF 'EM.
くる
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
AAH HH!
UGE!
UGE!

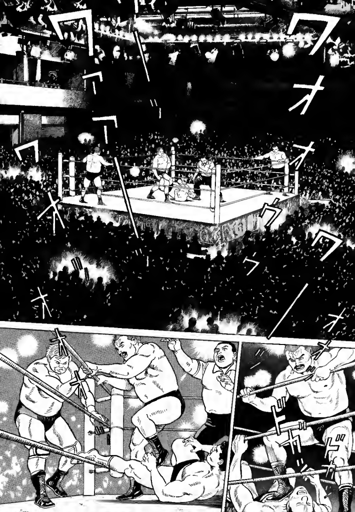

WOAH!
JUST WOAH!
YA TOOK 'EM ALL OUT SO EASILY.
THAT WAS SPECTACULAR.
: :
YOU WERE WATCHING?
THOUGHT IT DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
I'VE HEARD OF THE HOKUSHIN SCHOOL.
: :
BUT THREE ON ONE.
JUST AMAZING.

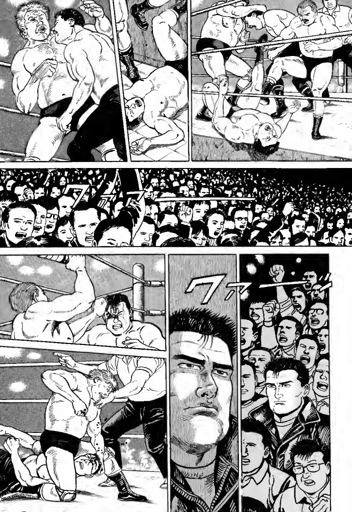

I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU CAUGHT THEM OFF-GUARD
AND ATTACKED SO SUDDENLY.
BUT A SURPRISE ATTACK BEFORE THE BELL
WON'T SELL TICKETS.
GU-WA-HA-HA!
YOU'RE AN INTERESTIN' GUY.
YOU'VE GOT MY ATTENTION.
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN CALLED INTERESTIN'.
I GOT SOMETHING TO ASK.
WHY KAJIWARA? FOR THE MONEY? THE FAME?
NAW.
I JUST WANNA FIGHT 'IM.
I LOST IN OUR LAST FIGHT.
HE PUT ME IN AN ARM LOCK, AND I CRIED OUT. I CAN STILL HEAR IT.

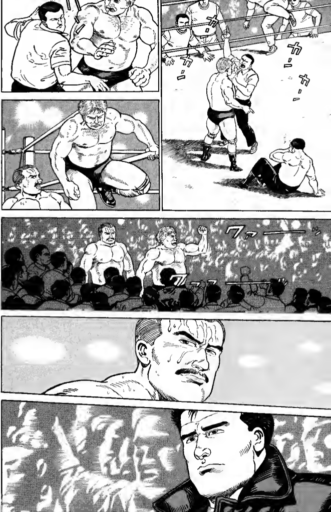

RE-VENGE THEN?
CALL IT THAT IF YA LIKE.
YOU'RE A WEIRD ONE.
I'M A SIMPLE-MINDED GUY.
....KAJIWARA'S LIKE THAT TOO.
MAYBE EVEN MORE SO THAN YOU.
...
HE CAN'T STAND IF THERE'S SOMEONE STRONGER THAN HIM EITHER.
MIGHT BE EVEN MORE OF A ROMANTICIST THAN YOU.
I ONCE THOUGHT THAT HE DIDN'T BELONG IN THIS WORLD.
PRO WRESTLING'S STILL A BUSINESS AFTER ALL, SO SPECIAL FIGHTERS GET FORCED INTO THE FRINGES.

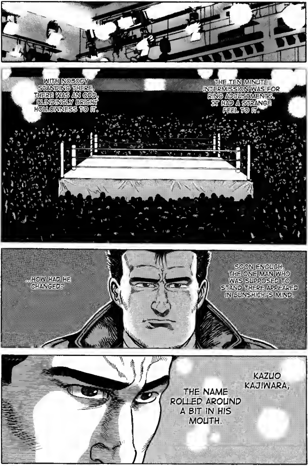

WHY BREAK INTO THE BUSINESS?
TO FIGHT KAJIWARA?
YEAH.
ISN'T POSSIBLE FOR AN AMATEUR.
ISN'T THERE A WAY TO SET IT UP BEFOREHAND?
COUPLE WAYS.
THE PROMOTERS LET DIFFERENT SORTS OF WRESTLERS BREAK IN, IF THEY PAY.
: :
IN SOME CASES, IT'S TO PROMOTE A WRESTLER.
SOME BREAK IN FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THEMSELVES. BUT THERE'S RULES FOR ANY KIND YOU MIGHT DO.
COMPLICATED STUFF...
こり こり
YOU GOTTA BE SHOWY, AND 'SIDES, YOU GOT NO ESTABLISHED NAME.
FU FU FU ...
HMM?
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

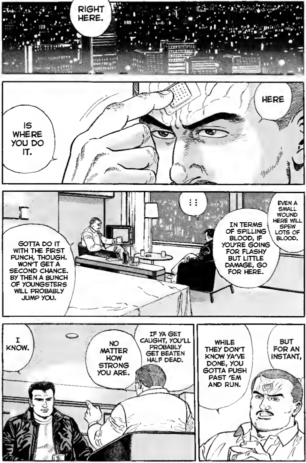

I NEVER FIGURED YOU'D BE THIS CONSIDERATE.
FUFU...
I GUESS SO...
HAVE A REASON?...
HMPH.
YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.
HAPPENED LONG TIME AGO... WHEN I WAS A PRO WRESTLER IN CHUUOU.
I FOUGHT SHOUZEN MATSUO FROM THE HOKUSHIN STYLE IN THE RING.
...
HE WAS A CHALLENGER, JUST LIKE YOU.
LOST TO 'IM. UTTERLY.
HE THREW INSANE PUNCHES AND KICKS, AND ME BEING A WRESTLER, I ENDED UP WITH MY SHOULDER BROKEN FROM AN ARM LOCK.
SHOUZEN MATSUO ISN'T HUMAN. NOR IS HE A BEAST... HE GAVE OFF THIS IMPRESSION OF A GIANT FLOPPING CLUMP OF POWER...

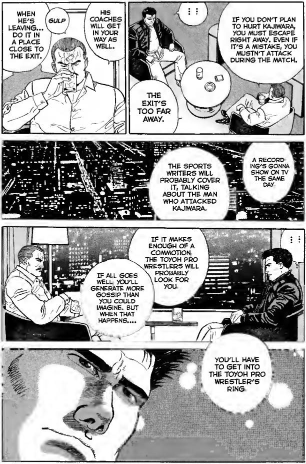

ワオオウゥ
ワァーッ
オオ
ワァアーッ
ワオォ
オオ
ビギッ
ドカ

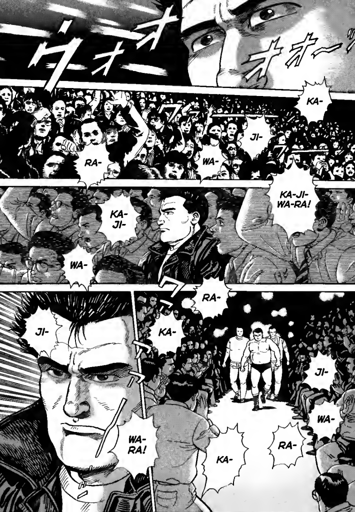

ワァアー
ワァーーッ

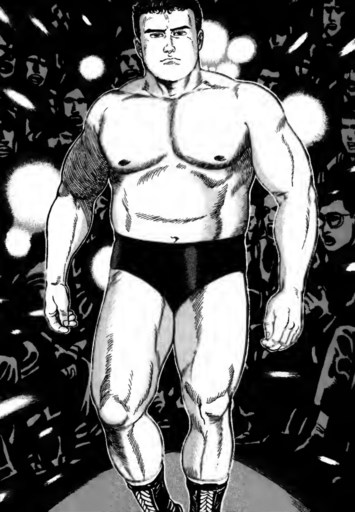

カーン
カーン
カーン
カーン
ワァーーッ
ワァァーーッ

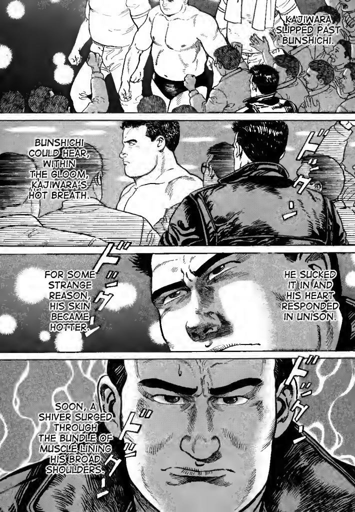

THE TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION WAS FOR RING ADJUSTMENTS. IT HAD A STRANGE FEEL TO IT.
WITH NOBODY STANDING THERE, THERE WAS AN ODD, BLINDINGLY BRIGHT HOLLOWNESS TO IT.
SOON ENOUGH, THE ONE MAN WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO STAND THERE APPEARED IN BUNSHICHI'S MIND.
...HOW HAD HE CHANGED?
KAZUO KAJIWARA,
THE NAME ROLLED AROUND A BIT IN HIS MOUTH.

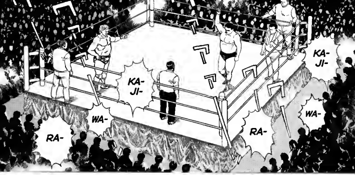

RIGHT HERE.
HERE
IS WHERE YOU DO IT.
EVEN A SMALL WOUND HERE WILL SPEW LOTS OF BLOOD.
IN TERMS OF SPILLING BLOOD, IF YOU'RE GOING FOR FLASHY BUT LITTLE DAMAGE, GO FOR HERE.
: :
GOTTA DO IT WITH THE FIRST PUNCH, THOUGH. WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE. BY THEN A BUNCH OF YOUNGSTERS WILL PROBABLY JUMP YOU.
BUT FOR AN INSTANT,
WHILE THEY DON'T KNOW YA'VE DONE, YOU GOTTA PUSH PAST 'EM AND RUN.
IF YA GET CAUGHT, YOU'LL PROBABLY GET BEATEN HALF DEAD.
NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU ARE.
I KNOW.

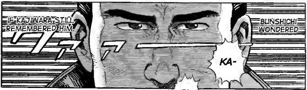

WHEN HE'S LEAVING... DO IT IN A PLACE CLOSE TO THE EXIT.
GULP
HIS COACHES WILL GET IN YOUR WAY AS WELL.
: :
IF YOU DON'T PLAN TO HURT KAJIWARA, YOU MUST ESCAPE RIGHT AWAY. EVEN IF IT'S A MISTAKE, YOU MUSTN'T ATTACK DURING THE MATCH.
THE EXIT'S TOO FAR AWAY.
THE SPORTS WRITERS WILL PROBABLY COVER IT, TALKING ABOUT THE MAN WHO ATTACKED KAJIWARA.
A RECORDING'S GONNA SHOW ON TV THE SAME DAY
IF IT MAKES ENOUGH OF A COMMOTION THE TOYOH PRO WRESTLERS WILL PROBABLY LOOK FOR YOU.
IF ALL GOES WELL, YOU'LL GENERATE MORE GOSSIP THAN YOU COULD IMAGINE. BUT WHEN THAT HAPPENS....
: :
YOU'LL HAVE TO GET INTO THE TOYOH PRO WRESTLER'S RING

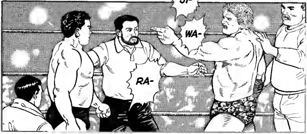

オオーッ
ヴォオオ
KA-
JI-
ワァ
WA-
RA-
KA-JI-WA-RA!
KA-JI-
WA-
RA-
KA-
JI-
WA-
RA-
KA-
JI-
WA-RA!

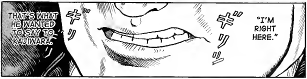


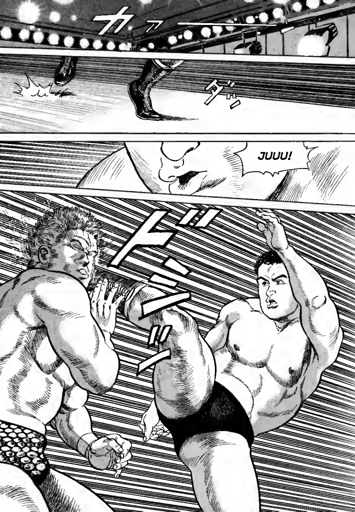

KAJIWARA SLIPPED PAST BUNSHICHI.
ドクン
BUNSHICHI COULD HEAR, WITHIN THE GLOOM, KAJIWARA'S HOT BREATH.
HE SUCKED IT IN AND HIS HEART RESPONDED IN UNISON.
ドクン
FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, HIS SKIN BECAME HOTTER.
ドクン
ドクン
SOON, A SHIVER SURGED THROUGH THE BUNDLE OF MUSCLE LINING HIS BROAD SHOULDERS.

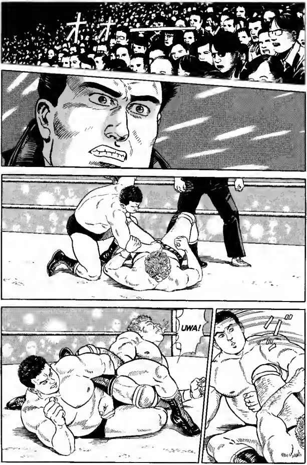

KA-
JI-
WA-
RA-
KA-
JI-
WA-
RA-

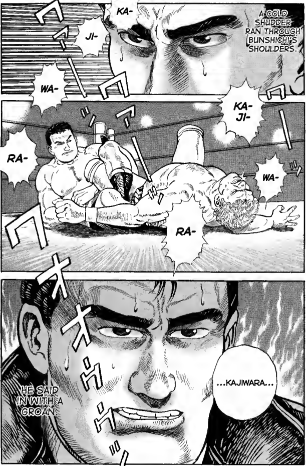

BUNSHICHI WONDERED
IF KAJIWARA STILL REMEMBERED HIM.
KA-

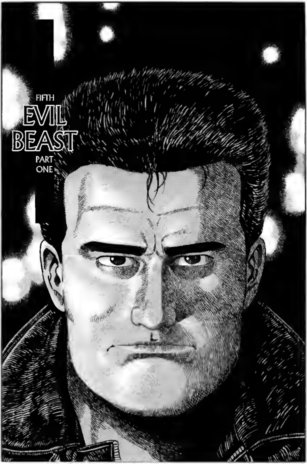

JI-
WA-
RA-


"I'M RIGHT HERE."
ギリッ
ギリ
THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED TO SAY TO KAJIWARA.


カァー
ダッ
JUUU!
ドシッ


オオ
UWA!

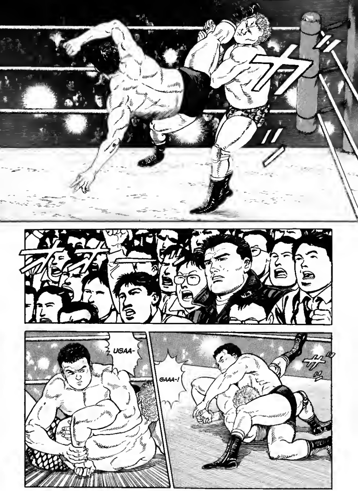

A COLD SHUDDER RAN THROUGH BUNSHICHI'S SHOULDERS.
KA-
JI-
WA-
KA-
JI-
RA-
WA-
RA-
...KAJIWARA...
HE SAID IN WITH A GROAN

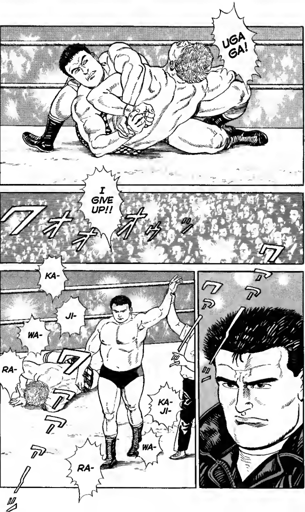


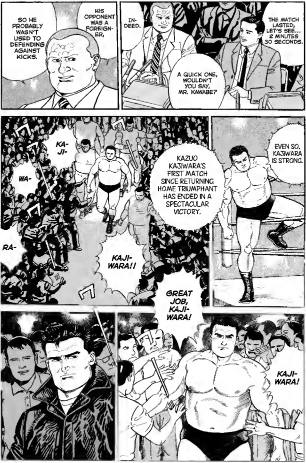
FIFTH

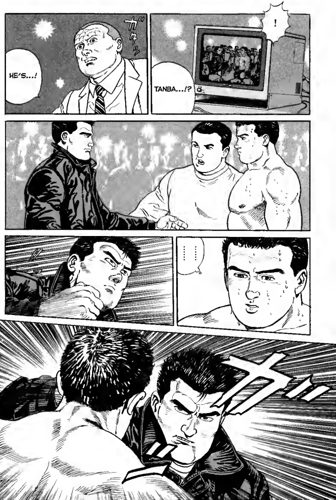
EVIL BEAST

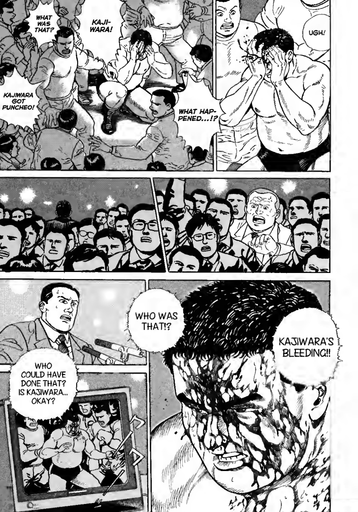
PART ONE

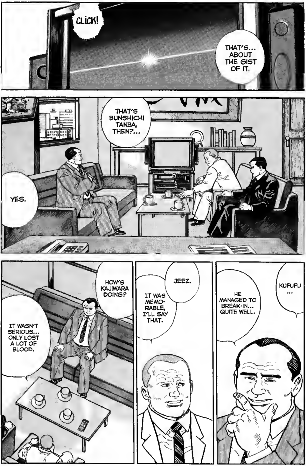

ガッ
オオオー
UGAA-
GAAA-!
ザッ

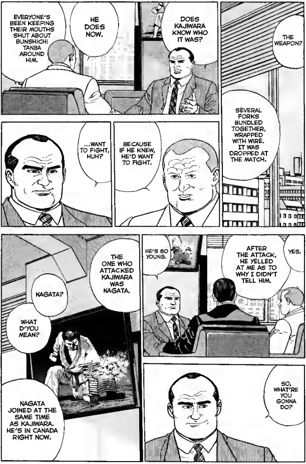

UGA GA!
I GIVE UP!!
ワオォオゥッ
KA-
JI-
WA-
RA-
KA-
JI-
WA-
RA-
ワァァァーッ
ワァ
ワァーッ

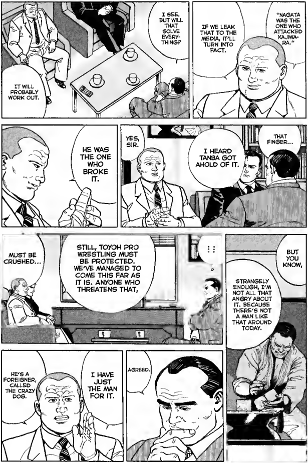

THE MATCH LASTED, LET'S SEE... 2 MINUTES 30 SECONDS.
A QUICK ONE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, MR. KAWABE?
INDEED.
HIS OPPONENT WAS A FOREIGNER,
SO HE PROBABLY WASN'T USED TO DEFENDING AGAINST KICKS.
EVEN SO, KAJIWARA IS STRONG.
KAZUO KAJIWARA'S FIRST MATCH SINCE RETURNING HOME TRIUMPHANT HAS ENDED IN A SPECTACULAR VICTORY.
KA-
JI-
WA-
RA-
KAJIWARA!!
GREAT JOB, KAJIWARA!
KAJIWARA!

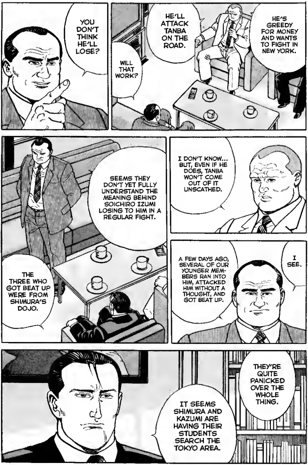

!
TANBA...!?
ガタッ
HE'S...!
......
ガッ

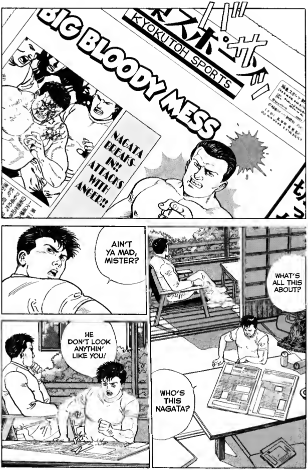

UGH!
KAJI-WARA!
WHAT WAS THAT?
WHAT HAPPENED...!?
KAJIWARA GOT PUNCHED!
KAJIWARA'S BLEEDING!!
WHO WAS THAT!?
WHO COULD HAVE DONE THAT? IS KAJIWARA... OKAY?

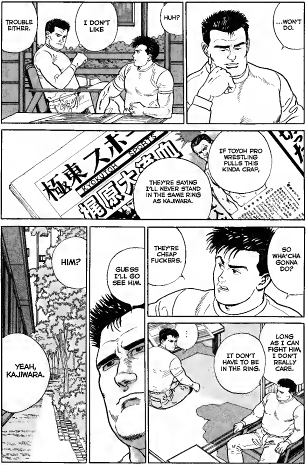

CLICK!
THAT'S... ABOUT THE GIST OF IT.
THAT'S BUNSHICHI TANBA, THEN?...
YES.
HOW'S KAJIWARA DOING?
IT WASN'T SERIOUS... ONLY LOST A LOT OF BLOOD.
JEEZ.
IT WAS MEMORABLE, I'LL SAY THAT.
KUFUFU...
HE MANAGED TO BREAK-IN... QUITE WELL.

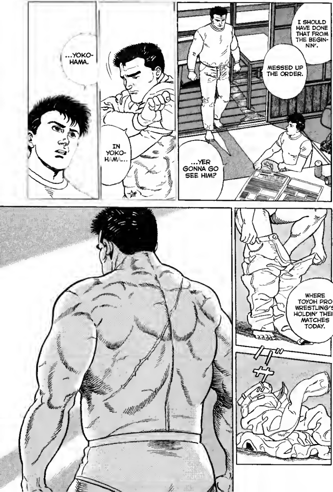

THE WEAPON?
SEVERAL FORKS BUNDLED TOGETHER, WRAPPED WITH WIRE. IT WAS DROPPED AT THE MATCH.
DOES KAJIWARA KNOW WHO IT WAS?
HE DOES NOW.
EVERYONE'S BEEN KEEPING THEIR MOUTHS SHUT ABOUT BUNSHICHI TANBA AROUND HIM.
BECAUSE IF HE KNEW, HE'D WANT TO FIGHT.
...WANT TO FIGHT, HUH?
YES.
AFTER THE ATTACK, HE YELLED AT ME AS TO WHY I DIDN'T TELL HIM.
HE'S SO YOUNG.
SO, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?
THE ONE WHO ATTACKED KAJIWARA WAS NAGATA.
NAGATA?
WHAT D'YOU MEAN?
NAGATA JOINED AT THE SAME TIME AS KAJIWARA. HE'S IN CANADA RIGHT NOW.

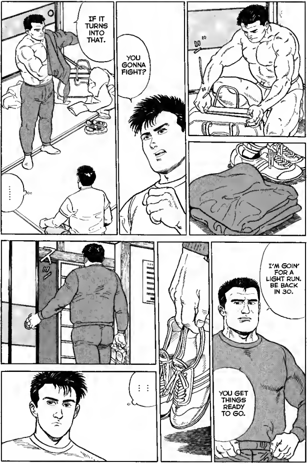

"NAGATA WAS THE ONE WHO ATTACKED KAJIWARA."
IF WE LEAK THAT TO THE MEDIA, IT'LL TURN INTO FACT.
I SEE. BUT WILL THAT SOLVE EVERYTHING?
IT WILL PROBABLY WORK OUT.
THAT FINGER...
I HEARD TANBA GOT AHOLD OF IT.
YES, SIR.
HE WAS THE ONE WHO BROKE IT.
BUT YOU KNOW,
STRANGELY ENOUGH, I'M NOT ALL THAT ANGRY ABOUT IT. BECAUSE THERE'S NOT A MAN LIKE THAT AROUND TODAY.
:
STILL, TOYOH PRO WRESTLING MUST BE PROTECTED. WE'VE MANAGED TO COME THIS FAR AS IT IS. ANYONE WHO THREATENS THAT,
MUST BE CRUSHED...
AGREED.
I HAVE JUST THE MAN FOR IT.
HE'S A FOREIGNER, CALLED THE CRAZY DOG.

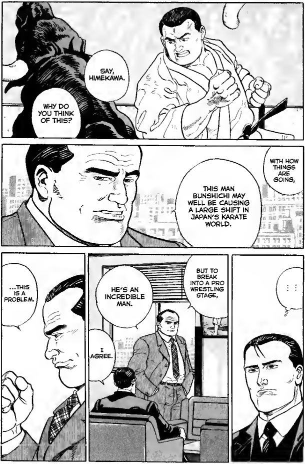

HE'S GREEDY FOR MONEY AND WANTS TO FIGHT IN NEW YORK.
HE'LL ATTACK TANBA ON THE ROAD.
WILL THAT WORK?
YOU DON'T THINK HE'LL LOSE?
I DON'T KNOW... BUT, EVEN IF HE DOES, TANBA WON'T COME OUT OF IT UNSCATHED.
I SEE.
A FEW DAYS AGO, SEVERAL OF OUR YOUNGER MEMBERS RAN INTO HIM, ATTACKED HIM WITHOUT A THOUGHT, AND GOT BEAT UP.
SEEMS THEY DON'T YET FULLY UNDERSTAND THE MEANING BEHIND SOICHIRO IZUMI LOSING TO HIM IN A REGULAR FIGHT.
THE THREE WHO GOT BEAT UP WERE FROM SHIMURA'S DOJO.
THEY'RE QUITE PANICKED OVER THE WHOLE THING.
IT SEEMS SHIMURA AND KAZUMI ARE HAVING THEIR STUDENTS SEARCH THE TOKYO AREA.

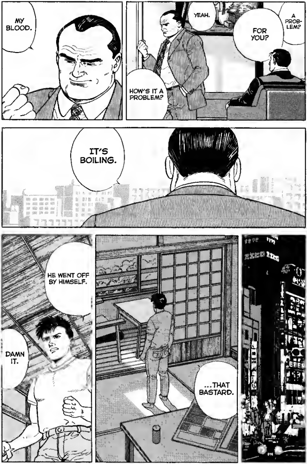

KYOKUTOH SPORTS
BIG BLOODY MESS
NAGATA BREAKS-IN!! ATTACKS WITH ANGER!!
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?
WHO'S THIS NAGATA?
AIN'T YA MAD, MISTER?
HE DON'T LOOK ANYTHIN' LIKE YOU!

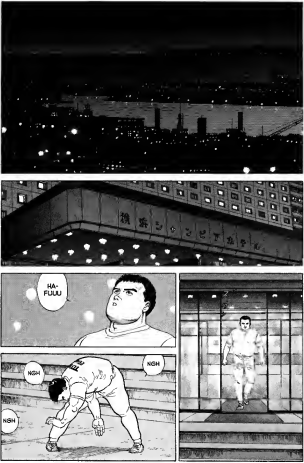

...WON'T DO.
HUH?
I DON'T LIKE
TROUBLE EITHER.
IF TOYOH PRO WRESTLING PULLS THIS KINDA CRAP,
THEY'RE SAYING I'LL NEVER STAND IN THE SAME RING AS KAJIWARA.
極東スポー
KYOKUTOH
SPORTS
梶原大
SO WHA'CHA GONNA DO?
THEY'RE CHEAP FUCKERS.
LONG AS I CAN FIGHT HIM, I DON'T REALLY CARE.
IT DON'T HAVE TO BE IN THE RING.
...
GUESS I'LL GO SEE HIM.
HIM?
YEAH, KAJIWARA.

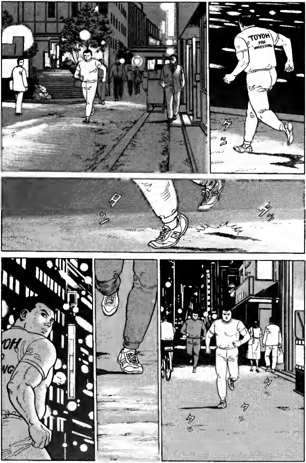

...YOKO-HAMA.
IN YOKO-HAMA...
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT FROM THE BEGINNIN'.
MESSED UP THE ORDER.
...YER GONNA GO SEE HIM?
WHERE TOYOH PRO WRESTLING'S HOLDIN' THEIR MATCHES TODAY.
バサ

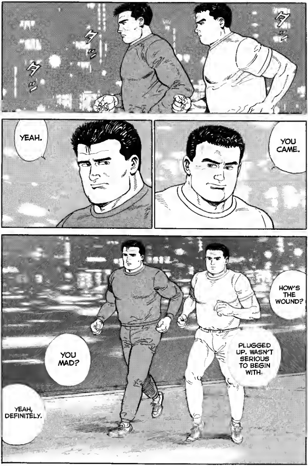

IF IT TURNS INTO THAT.
YOU GONNA FIGHT?
......
I'M GOIN' FOR A LIGHT RUN. BE BACK IN 30.
YOU GET THINGS READY TO GO.
: :


SAY, HIMEKAWA.
WHY DO YOU THINK OF THIS?
WITH HOW THINGS ARE GOING,
THIS MAN BUNSHICHI MAY WELL BE CAUSING A LARGE SHIFT IN JAPAN'S KARATE WORLD.
: :
BUT TO BREAK INTO A PRO WRESTLING STAGE,
HE'S AN INCREDIBLE MAN.
I AGREE.
...THIS IS A PROBLEM.


MY BLOOD.
YEAH.
A PROBLEM?
FOR YOU?
HOW'S IT A PROBLEM?
IT'S BOILING.
HE WENT OFF BY HIMSELF.
DAMN IT.
...THAT BASTARD.


横浜シャンピアホテル
HA-FUUU
NGH
NGH
NGH

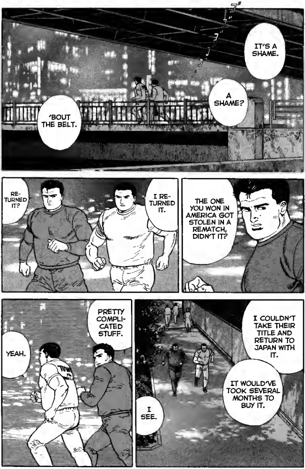

TOYOH PRO WRESTLING
タッ
タッ
ダッ
TOYOH
タッ
タッ

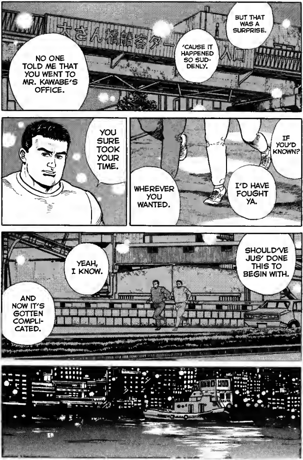

タッ
タッ
タッ
YOU CAME.
YEAH.
HOW'S THE WOUND?
PLUGGED UP. WASN'T SERIOUS TO BEGIN WITH.
YOU MAD?
YEAH, DEFINITELY.

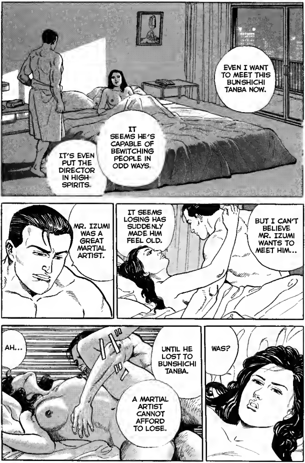
FIFTH

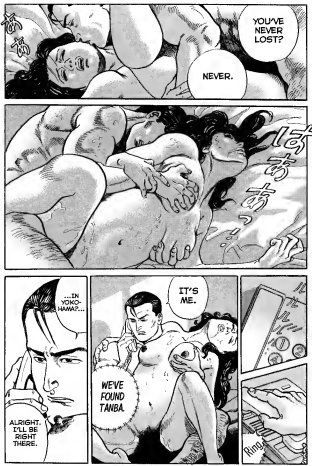
EVIL BEAST

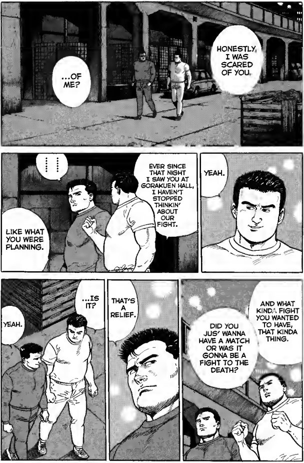
PART TWO

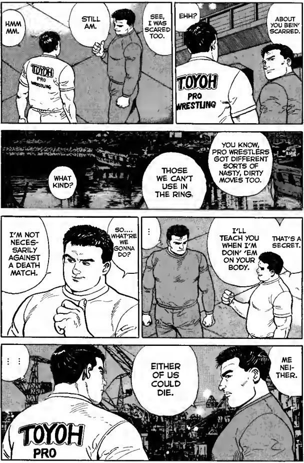

IT'S A SHAME.
A SHAME?
'BOUT THE BELT.
THE ONE YOU WON IN AMERICA GOT STOLEN IN A REMATCH, DIDN'T IT?
I RETURNED IT.
RETURNED IT?
I COULDN'T TAKE THEIR TITLE AND RETURN TO JAPAN WITH IT.
IT WOULD'VE TOOK SEVERAL MONTHS TO BUY IT.
I SEE.
PRETTY COMPLICATED STUFF.
YEAH.

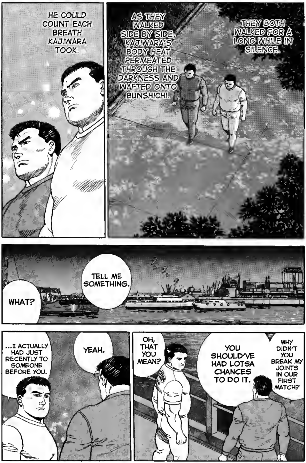

大さん橋船客ター
入口
NO ONE TOLD ME THAT YOU WENT TO MR. KAWABE'S OFFICE.
'CAUSE IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY.
BUT THAT WAS A SURPRISE.
YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TIME.
IF YOU'D KNOWN?
I'D HAVE FOUGHT YA.
WHEREVER YOU WANTED.
SHOULD'VE JUS' DONE THIS TO BEGIN WITH.
YEAH, I KNOW.
AND NOW IT'S GOTTEN COMPLICATED.

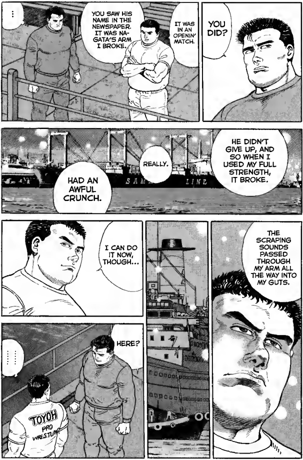

IT'S EVEN PUT THE DIRECTOR IN HIGH SPIRITS.
IT SEEMS HE'S CAPABLE OF BEWITCHING PEOPLE IN ODD WAYS.
EVEN I WANT TO MEET THIS BUNSHICHI TANBA NOW.
MR. IZUMI WAS A GREAT MARTIAL ARTIST.
IT SEEMS LOSING HAS SUDDENLY MADE HIM FEEL OLD.
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE MR. IZUMI WANTS TO MEET HIM...
AH...
UNTIL HE LOST TO BUNSHICHI TANBA.
A MARTIAL ARTIST CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE.
WAS?

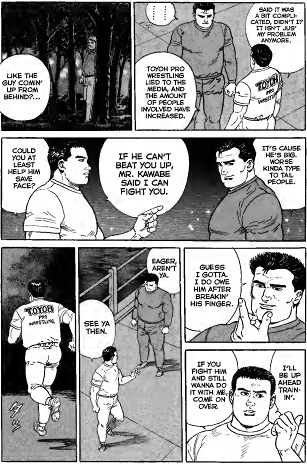

YOU'VE NEVER LOST?
NEVER.
ああ
はああっ…!!
ルルルルル
Ring.
IT'S ME.
WE'VE FOUND TANBA.
...IN YOKOHAMA?...
ALRIGHT. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

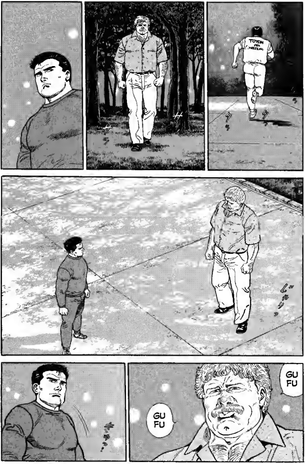

HONESTLY, I WAS SCARED OF YOU.
...OF ME?
YEAH.
EVER SINCE THAT NIGHT I SAW YOU AT GORAKUEN HALL, I HAVEN'T STOPPED THINKIN' ABOUT OUR FIGHT.
!!!
LIKE WHAT YOU WERE PLANNING.
DID YOU JUS' WANNA HAVE A MATCH OR WAS IT GONNA BE A FIGHT TO THE DEATH?
AND WHAT KINDA FIGHT YOU WANTED TO HAVE, THAT KINDA THING.
THAT'S A RELIEF.
...IS IT?
YEAH.

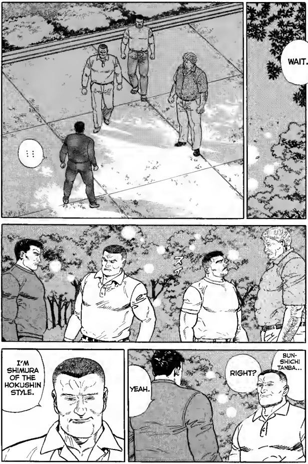

ABOUT YOU BEIN' SCARRED.
EHH?
TOYOH PRO WRESTLING
SEE, I WAS SCARED TOO.
STILL AM.
HMM MM.
TOYOH PRO WRESTLING
YOU KNOW, PRO WRESTLERS GOT DIFFERENT SORTS OF NASTY, DIRTY MOVES TOO.
THOSE WE CAN'T USE IN THE RING.
WHAT KIND?
THAT'S A SECRET.
I'LL TEACH YOU WHEN I'M DOIN' 'EM ON YOUR BODY.
:
SO.... WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?
I'M NOT NECESSARILY AGAINST A DEATH MATCH.
ME NEITHER.
EITHER OF US COULD DIE.
: :
TOYOH PRO

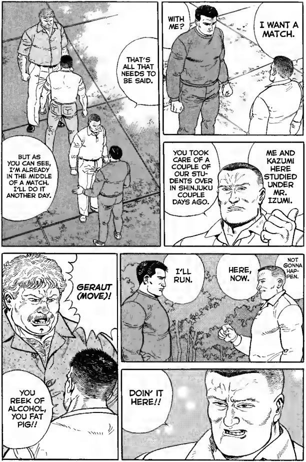

THEY BOTH WALKED FOR A LONG WHILE IN SILENCE.
AS THEY WALKED SIDE BY SIDE, KAJIWARA'S BODY HEAT PERMEATED THROUGH THE DARKNESS AND WAFTED ONTO BUNSHICHI.
HE COULD COUNT EACH BREATH KAJIWARA TOOK.
TELL ME SOMETHING.
WHAT?
WHY DIDN'T YOU BREAK MY JOINTS IN OUR FIRST MATCH?
YOU SHOULD'VE HAD LOTSA CHANCES TO DO IT.
OH, THAT YOU MEAN?
YEAH.
...I ACTUALLY HAD JUST RECENTLY TO SOMEONE BEFORE YOU.

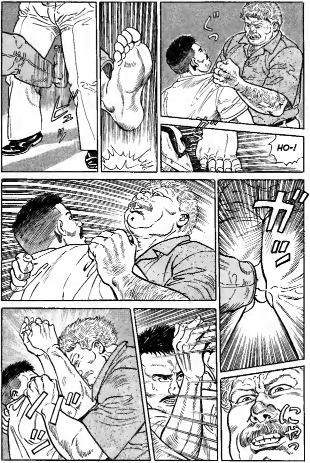

YOU DID?
IT WAS IN AN OPENIN' MATCH.
YOU SAW HIS NAME IN THE NEWSPAPER. IT WAS NAGATA'S ARM I BROKE.
...
HE DIDN'T GIVE UP, AND SO WHEN I USED MY FULL STRENGTH, IT BROKE.
REALLY.
HAD AN AWFUL CRUNCH.
SAMA LINE
THE SCRAPING SOUNDS PASSED THROUGH MY ARM ALL THE WAY INTO MY GUTS.
I CAN DO IT NOW, THOUGH...
HERE?
......
TOYOH PRO WRESTLING

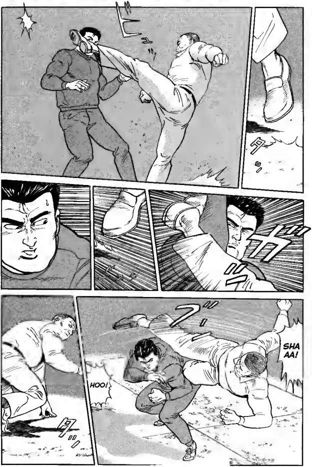

…
SAID IT WAS A BIT COMPLICATED, DIDN'T I? IT ISN'T JUS' MY PROBLEM ANYMORE.
TOYOH PRO WRESTLING LIED TO THE MEDIA, AND THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE INVOLVED HAVE INCREASED.
TOYOH PRO WRESTLING
LIKE THE GUY COMIN' UP FROM BEHIND?…
IT'S CAUSE HE'S BIG. WORSE KINDA TYPE TO TAIL PEOPLE.
IF HE CAN'T BEAT YOU UP, MR. KAWABE SAID I CAN FIGHT YOU.
COULD YOU AT LEAST HELP HIM SAVE FACE?
GUESS I GOTTA. I DO OWE HIM AFTER BREAKIN' HIS FINGER.
I'LL BE UP AHEAD TRAININ'.
IF YOU FIGHT HIM AND STILL WANNA DO IT WITH ME, COME ON OVER.
EAGER, AREN'T YA.
SEE YA THEN.
TOYOH PRO WRESTLING
ダッ

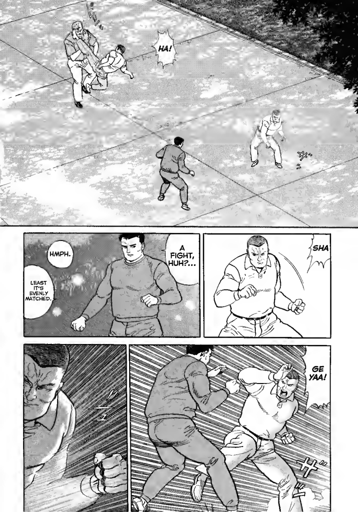

TOYON PRO WRESTLING
タッ
タッ
タッ
ザッ
ザッ
じわりっ
GU FU
GU FU
ぎゅっ…

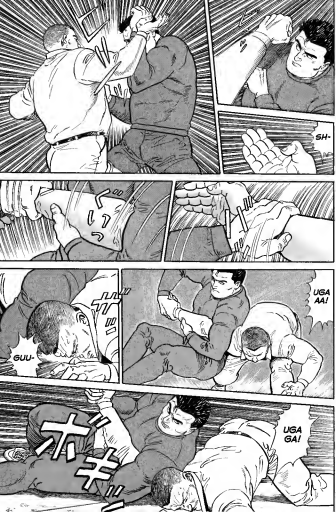

WAIT.
...
スイー
BUN-SHICHI TANBA...
RIGHT?
YEAH.
I'M SHIMURA OF THE HOKUSHIN STYLE.

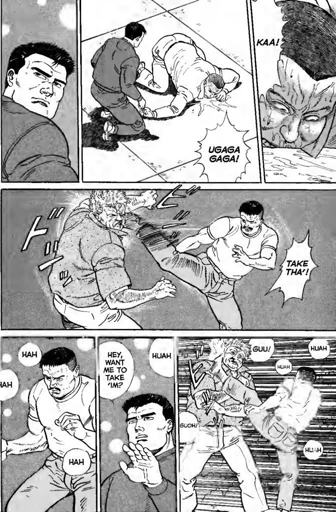

THAT'S ALL THAT NEEDS TO BE SAID.
BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M ALREADY IN THE MIDDLE OF A MATCH. I'LL DO IT ANOTHER DAY.
I WANT A MATCH.
WITH ME?
ME AND KAZUMI HERE STUDIED UNDER MR. IZUMI.
YOU TOOK CARE OF A COUPLE OF OUR STUDENTS OVER IN SHINJUKU COUPLE DAYS AGO.
GERAUT (MOVE)!
YOU REEK OF ALCOHOL, YOU FAT PIG!!
I'LL RUN.
HERE, NOW.
NOT GONNA HAPPEN.
DOIN' IT HERE!!

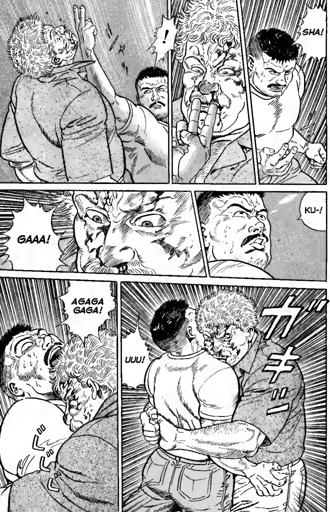

ぐっ
HO-!
ガッ
ビュ
ガツン
にやっ
ドッ
ドッ

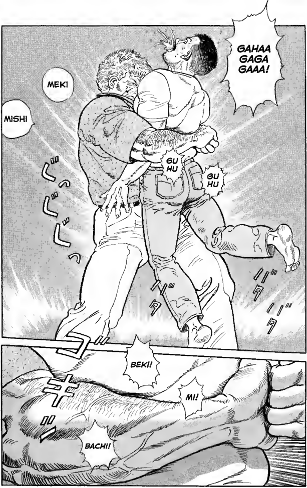

ビュッ
タッ
ガッ
ブン
SHA AA!
HOO!
タッ

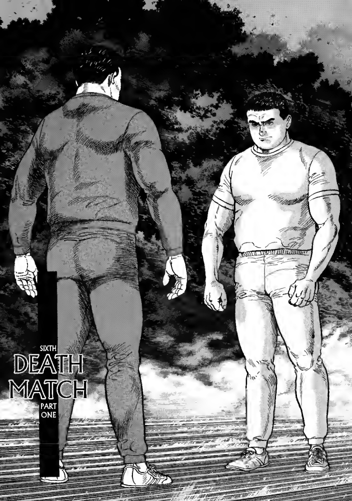

HA!
SHA
A FIGHT, HUH?...
HMPH.
LEAST IT'S EVENLY MATCHED.
GE YAA!


SH-
ビシッ
ぐいっ
UGA AA!
ザッ
GUU-
UGA GA!
ボギッ


KAA!
UGAGA GAGA!
TAKE THA'!
HUAH
GUU!
HUAH
GUOH!
HUAH
HUAH
HEY, WANT ME TO TAKE 'IM?
HAH
HAH
HAH


SHA!
!
KU-!
GAAA!
ガキッー
UUU!
AGAGA GAGA!
ぐぐぐ

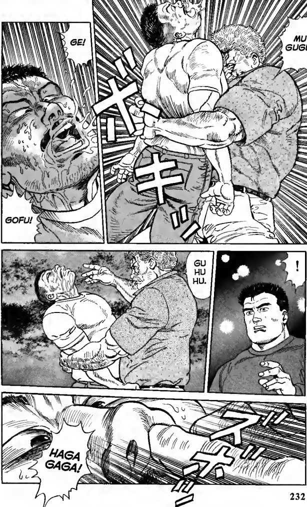

GAHAA GAGA GAAA!
GU HU
GU HU
MEKI
MISHI
バタ バタ
バタ
じっじじっ
BEKI!
MI!
BACHI!
ゴギィ

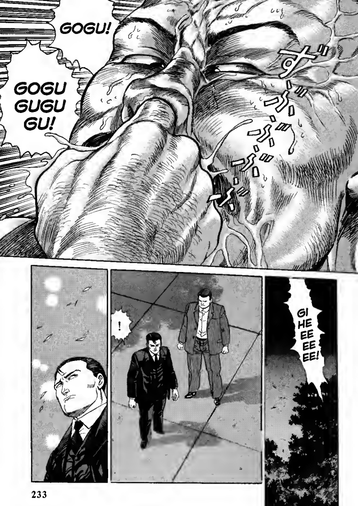


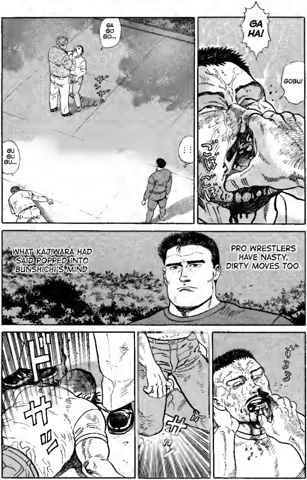
SIXTH

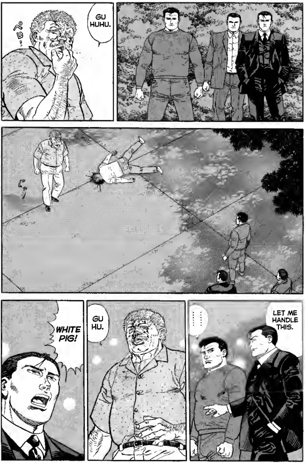
DEATH MATCH

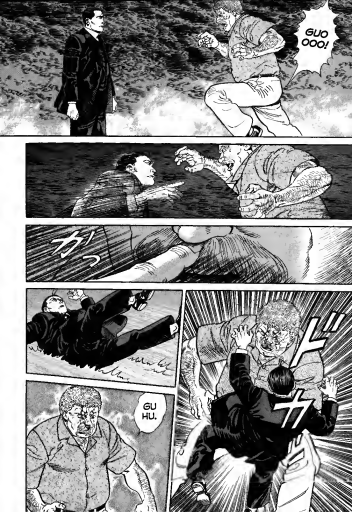
PART ONE

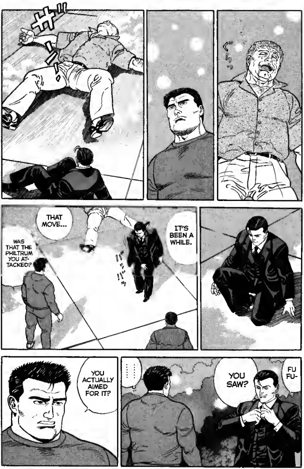

MU GUGU!
ギーギー
GE!
GOFU!
!
GU HU HU.
ズボー
HAGA GAGA!

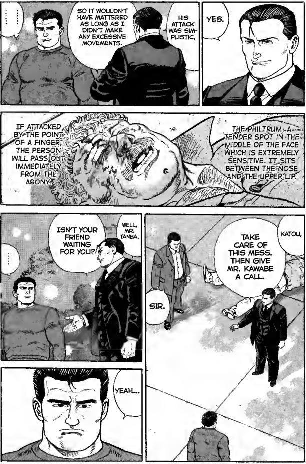

GOGU!
GOGU GUGU GU!
ずブブブ
GI HE EE EE EE!
!

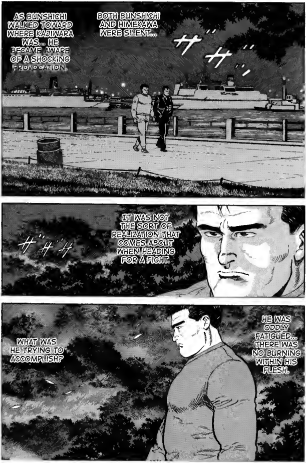

GA HA!
GOBU!
ごぼっ
GA GO GO...
ザ ザ
...
GU GU GU...
WHAT KAJIWARA HAD SAID POPPED INTO BUNSHICHI'S MIND.
PRO WRESTLERS HAVE NASTY, DIRTY MOVES TOO.
ずるる
ザッ
ド
ガッ

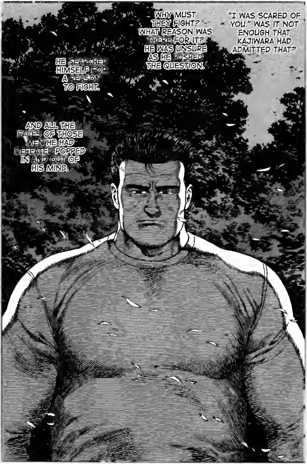

ペロ!
...
GU HUHU.
じゃり
WHITE PIG!
GU HU.
......
LET ME HANDLE THIS.

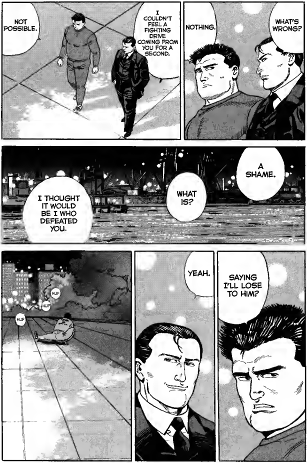

GUO OOO!
カッ
ドカッ
GU HU.

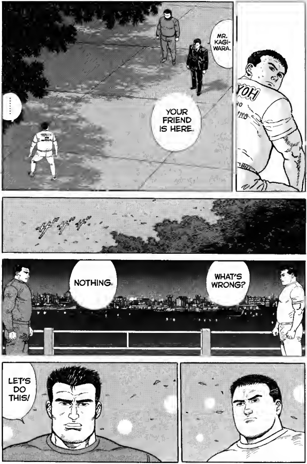

ぐらっ
ガーン
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
THAT MOVE...
WAS THAT THE PHILTRUM YOU ATTACKED?
バッバッ
FU FU-
YOU SAW?
......
YOU ACTUALLY AIMED FOR IT?


YES.
HIS ATTACK WAS SIMPLISTIC,
SO IT WOULDN'T HAVE MATTERED AS LONG AS I DIDN'T MAKE ANY EXCESSIVE MOVEMENTS.
......
THE PHILTRUM: A TENDER SPOT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FACE WHICH IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE. IT SITS BETWEEN THE NOSE AND THE UPPER LIP.
IF ATTACKED BY THE POINT OF A FINGER, THE PERSON WILL PASS OUT IMMEDIATELY FROM THE AGONY.
KATOU,
TAKE CARE OF THIS MESS. THEN GIVE MR. KAWABE A CALL.
SIR.
WELL, MR. TANBA.
ISN'T YOUR FRIEND WAITING FOR YOU?
......
YEAH...

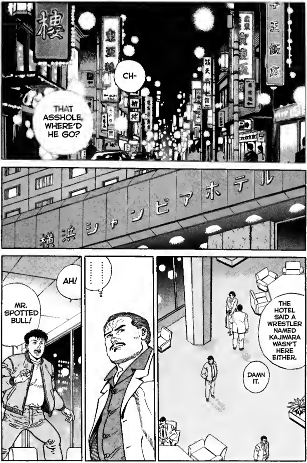

AS BUNSHICHI WALKED TOWARD WHERE KAJIWARA WAS... HE BECAME AWARE OF A SHOCKING PROVOCATION.
BOTH BUNSHICHI AND HIMEKAWA WERE SILENT...
ザ ザ
ザ ザ ザ
IT WAS NOT THE SORT OF REALIZATION THAT COMES ABOUT WHEN HEADING FOR A FIGHT.
WHAT WAS HE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?
HE WAS ODDLY FATIGUED... THERE WAS NO BURNING WITHIN HIS FLESH.

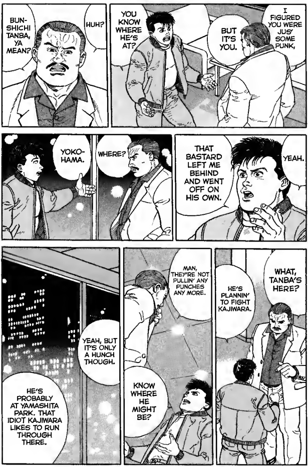

"I WAS SCARED OF YOU." WAS IT NOT ENOUGH THAT KAJIWARA HAD ADMITTED THAT?
WHY MUST THEY FIGHT? WHAT REASON WAS THERE FOR IT? HE WAS UNSURE AS HE PUSHED THE QUESTION.
HE SEARCHED HIMSELF FOR A REASON TO FIGHT.
AND ALL THE FACES OF THOSE MEN HE HAD DEFEATED POPPED IN AND OUT OF HIS MIND.

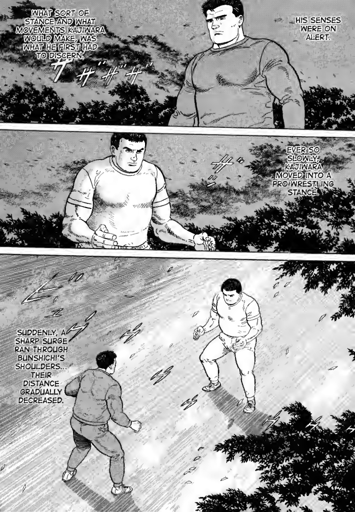

WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING.
I COULDN'T FEEL A FIGHTING DRIVE COMING FROM YOU FOR A SECOND.
NOT POSSIBLE.
A SHAME.
WHAT IS?
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE I WHO DEFEATED YOU.
SAYING I'LL LOSE TO HIM?
YEAH.
HUF
HUF
HUF

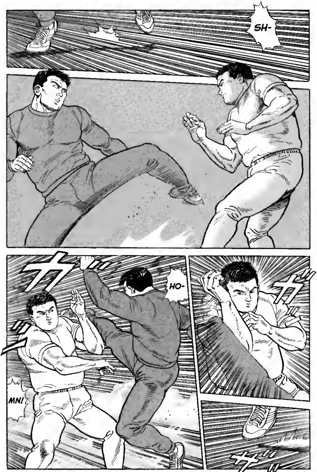

MR. KAGIWARA.
YOUR FRIEND IS HERE.
......
ザザザ
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING.
LET'S DO THIS!

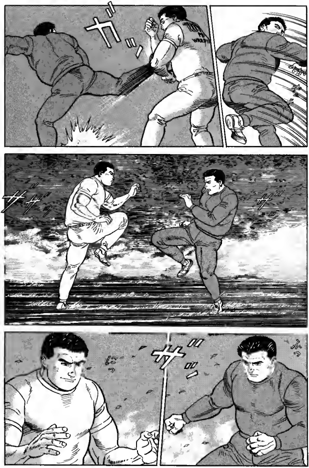
ザ
ザ


CH-
THAT ASSHOLE, WHERE'D HE GO?
横浜シャンピアホテル
THE HOTEL SAID A WRESTLER NAMED KAJIWARA WASN'T HERE EITHER.
DAMN IT.
……
AH!
MR. SPOTTED BULL!


I FIGURED YOU WERE JUS' SOME PUNK,
BUT IT'S YOU.
YOU KNOW WHERE HE'S AT?
HUH?
BUN-SHICHI TANBA, YA MEAN?
YEAH.
THAT BASTARD LEFT ME BEHIND AND WENT OFF ON HIS OWN.
WHERE?
YOKO-HAMA.
WHAT, TANBA'S HERE?
HE'S PLANNIN' TO FIGHT KAJIWARA.
MAN, THEY'RE NOT PULLIN' ANY PUNCHES ANY MORE.
KNOW WHERE HE MIGHT BE?
HE'S PROBABLY AT YAMASHITA PARK. THAT IDIOT KAJIWARA LIKES TO RUN THROUGH THERE.
YEAH, BUT IT'S ONLY A HUNCH THOUGH.


WHAT SORT OF STANCE AND WHAT MOVEMENTS KAJIWARA WOULD MAKE, WAS WHAT HE FIRST HAD TO DISCERN.
ザザザザ
HIS SENSES WERE ON ALERT.
ザ
EVER SO SLOWLY, KAJIWARA MOVED INTO A PRO WRESTLING STANCE.
SUDDENLY, A SHARP SURGE RAN THROUGH BUNSHICHI'S SHOULDERS... THEIR DISTANCE GRADUALLY DECREASED.

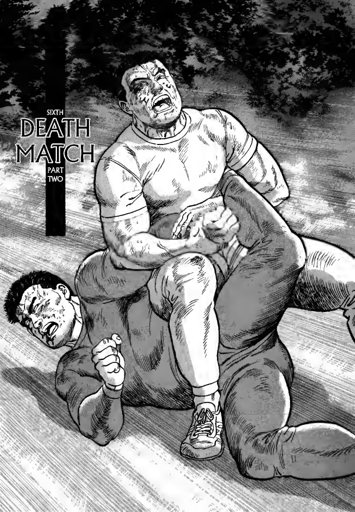

SH-
ガッ
ザッ
ガッ
HO-
MN!

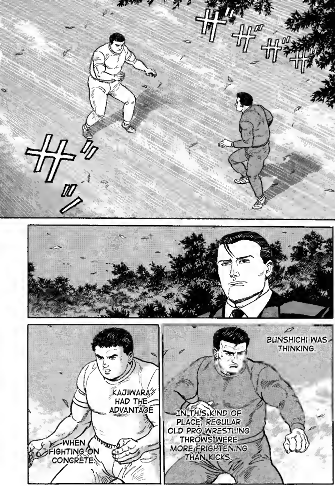

ガッ
ザザッ
ザッ
ふっ
ザザー
にっ

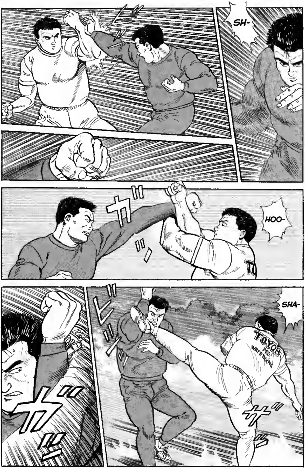
SIXTH

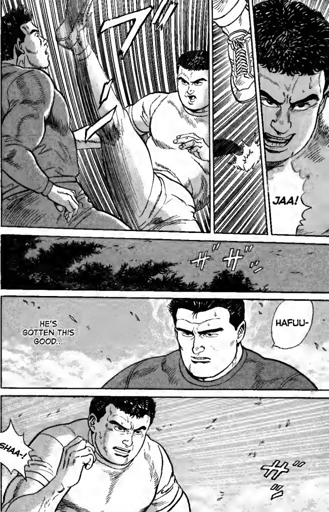
DEATH MATCH

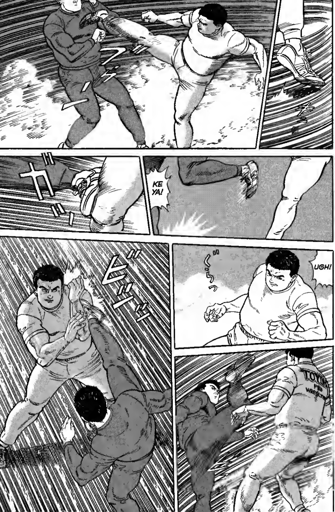
PART TWO

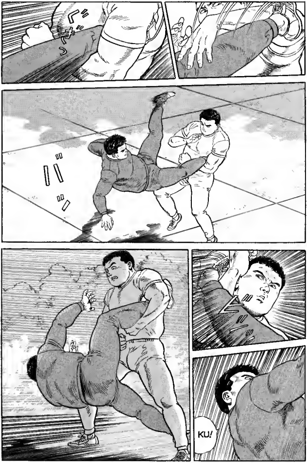


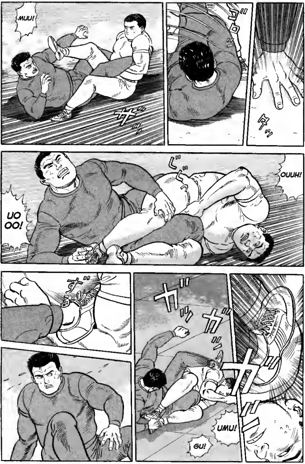

ザザザザ
ザッ
BUNSHICHI WAS THINKING.
IN THIS KIND OF PLACE, REGULAR OLD PRO WRESTLING THROWS WERE MORE FRIGHTENING THAN KICKS.
KAJIWARA HAD THE ADVANTAGE
WHEN FIGHTING ON CONCRETE.

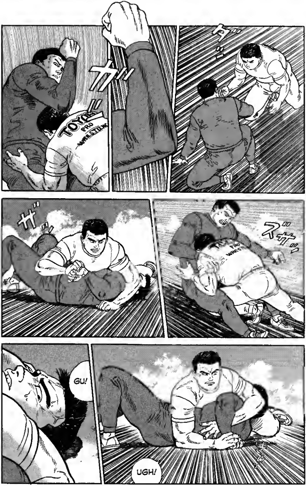

SH-
ビッ
HOO-
ガッ
TO
SHA-
TOYOH
PRO
WRESTLING
ビシッ
ザッ
ガッ

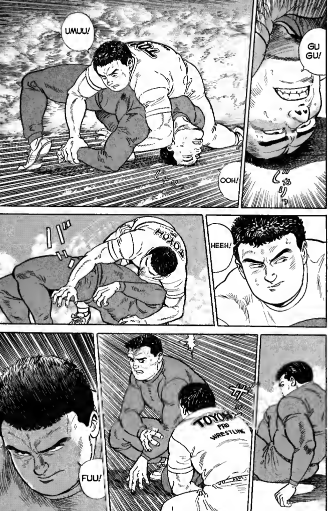

JAA!
ブ
ザザッ
HAFUU-
HE'S GOTTEN THIS GOOD...
SHAA-!
ザッ

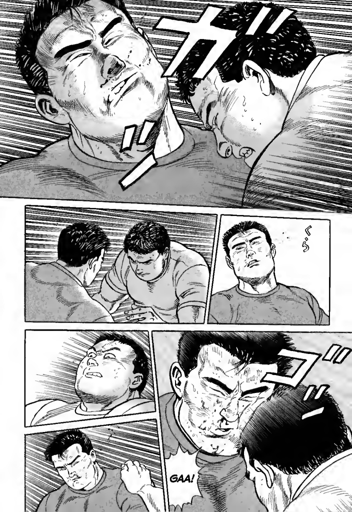

ブン
ガッ
KE YA!
UGH!
ぐらっ
ビシーッ

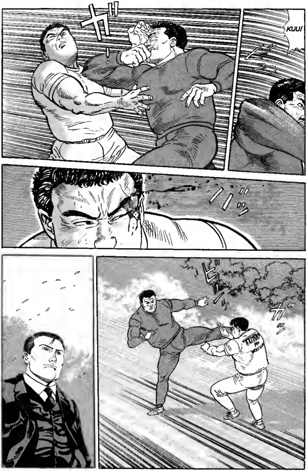

ぐぎっ
バッ
ズッ
KU!

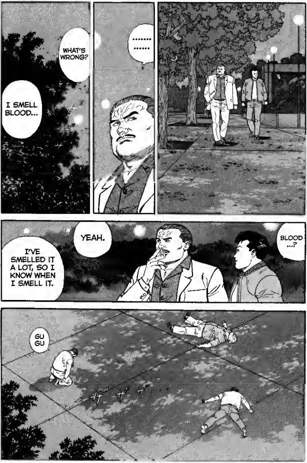

MUU!
ダッ
UO OO!
OUUH!
ずっ
ガッ
ガッ
ガッ
UMU!
GU!

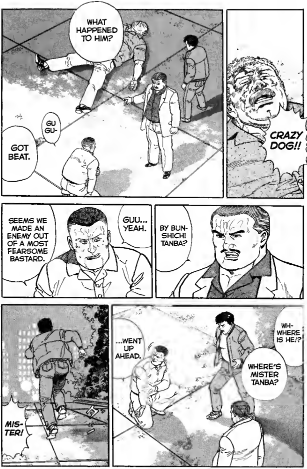

ダッ
ガッ
TOYO PRO WRESTLING
スザッ
TOYO PRO WRESTLING
ザッ
ぎゅっ
UGH!
GU!

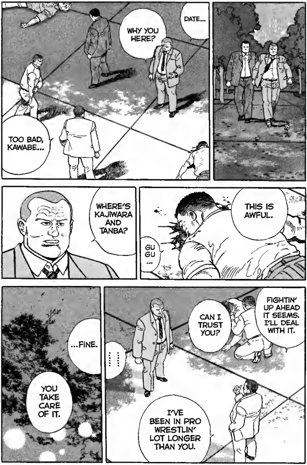

GU GU!
じわりっ
UMUU!
OOH!
じゃりっ
HEEH!
バ
TOYOH
ガ
TOYOH PRO WRESTLING
FUU!

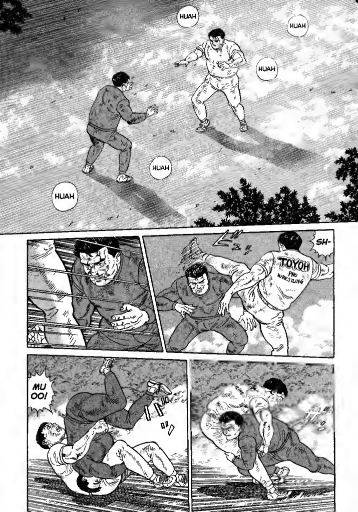

ガッ
くら
ゴッ
GAA!

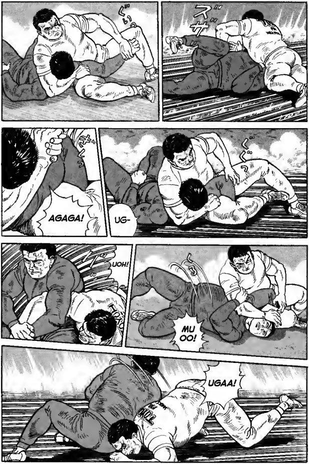

KUU!
ガッ!
ガッ

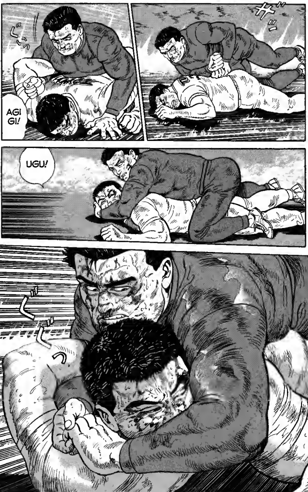

......
......
WHAT'S WRONG?
I SMELL BLOOD...
BLOOD ...?
YEAH.
I'VE SMELLED IT A LOT, SO I KNOW WHEN I SMELL IT.
GU GU

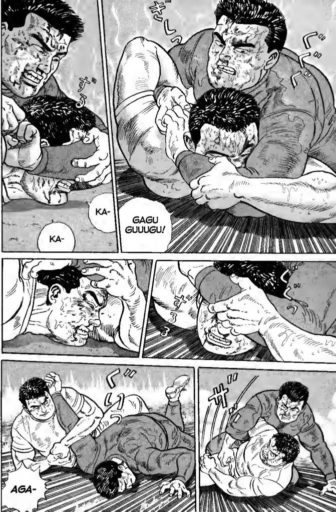

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
GU GU-
GOT BEAT.
CRAZY DOG!!
SEEMS WE MADE AN ENEMY OUT OF A MOST FEARSOME BASTARD.
GUU... YEAH.
BY BUNSHICHI TANBA?
MISTER!
WH-WHERE IS HE!?
WHERE'S MISTER TANBA?
...WENT UP AHEAD.

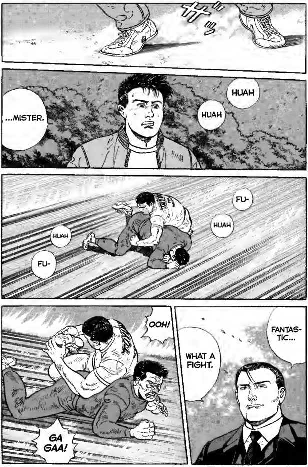

DATE...
WHY YOU HERE?
TOO BAD, KAWABE...
THIS IS AWFUL.
GU GU ...
WHERE'S KAJIWARA AND TANBA?
FIGHTIN' UP AHEAD IT SEEMS. I'LL DEAL WITH IT.
CAN I TRUST YOU?
......
I'VE BEEN IN PRO WRESTLIN' LOT LONGER THAN YOU.
...FINE.
YOU TAKE CARE OF IT.

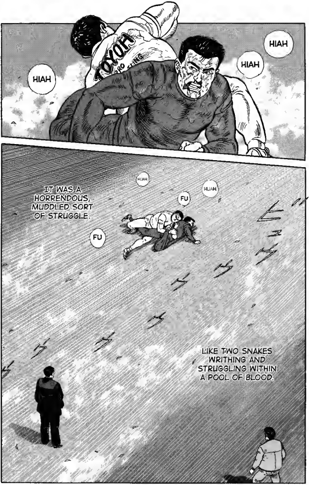

HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
SH-
TOYOH
PRO
WRESTLING
MU
OO!

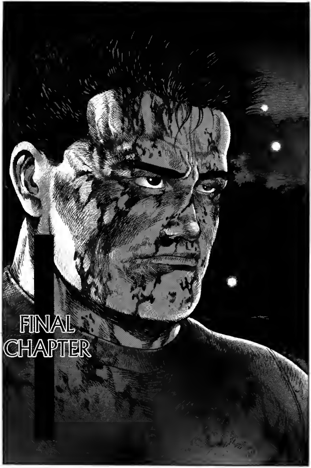

ぐいっ
ズザ
ぎゅっ
AGAGA!
UG-
ぐぐっ
UOH!
ぐるっ
MU OO!
UGAA!

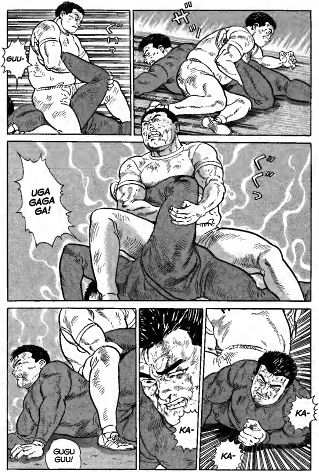
ガッ
じっ
AGI GI!
UGU!
じじっ

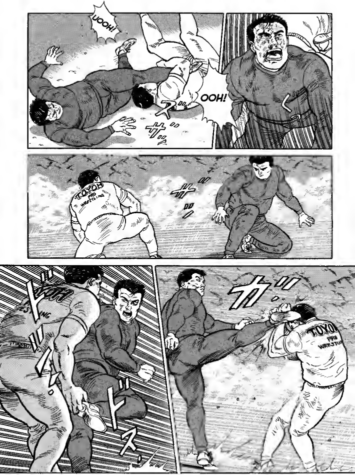

ぎしっ
ぐぐぐ
GAGU GUUUGU!
ずる
KA-
KA-
ぐぐっ
ずるる
ザッ
ぐいっ
AGA-

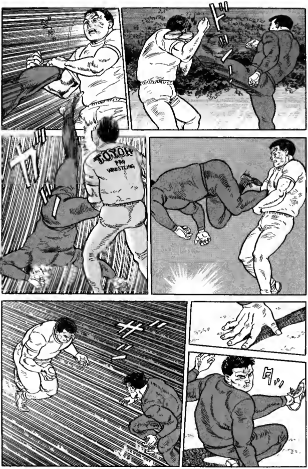

ガッ
HUAH
HUAH
...MISTER.
FU-
HUAH
HUAH
FU-
FANTAS-TIC...
WHAT A FIGHT.
OOH!
GA GAA!

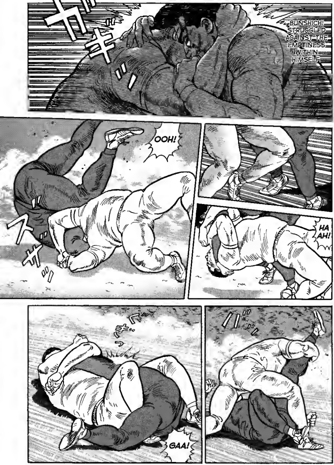

HIAH
HIAH
HIAH
TOYOH
IT WAS A HORRENDOUS, MUDDLED SORT OF STRUGGLE.
HIAH
HIAH
FU
FU
LIKE TWO SNAKES WRITHING AND STRUGGLING WITHIN A POOL OF BLOOD.

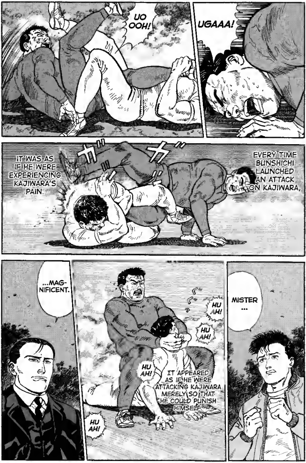

FINAL
CHAPTER

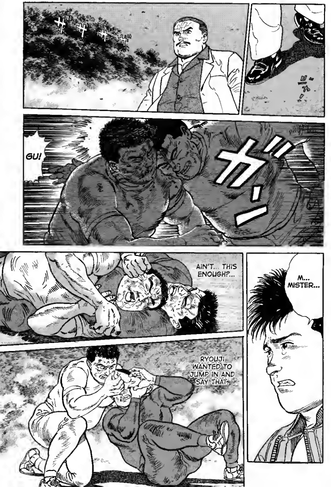

ガッ
ぐいっ
GUU-
ぐぐっ
UGA GAGA GA!
KA-
KA-
KA-
GUGU GUU!

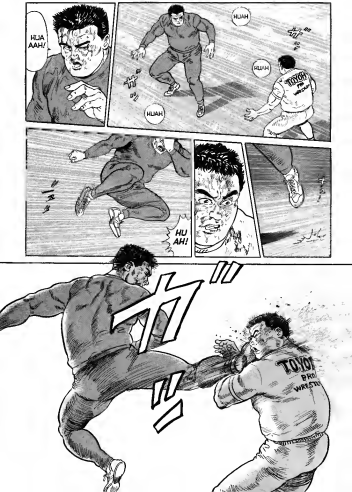

UOOH!
OOH!
ズザッ
ザッ
TOYOH PRO WRESTLING
ドドッ
ドス
ガッ
TOYOH PRO WRESTLING

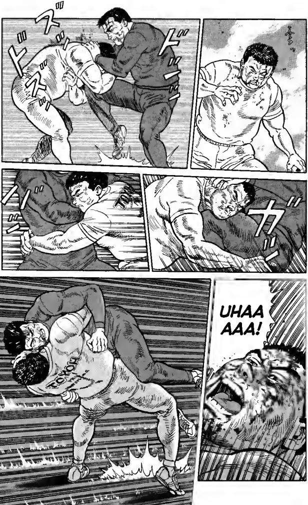

ドゴーッ
TOYOH PRO WRESTLING
ガッ
ザザーッ
ダッ

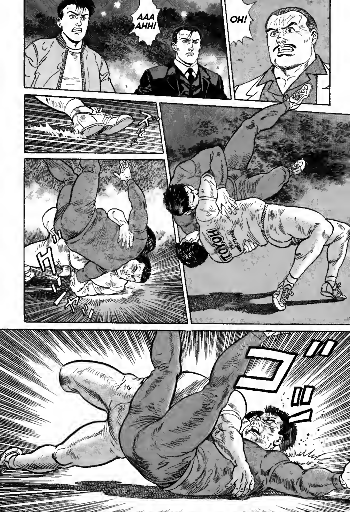

ガギッ
BUNSHICHI STRUGGLED AGAINST THE EMPTINESS WITHIN HIMSELF
HA AH!
OOH!
ズザッ
バッ
ぐぎっ
GAA!

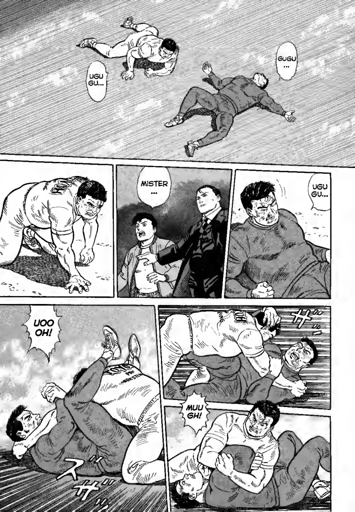

UGAAA!
UO OOH!
EVERY TIME BUNSHICHI LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON KAJIWARA,
ガ
ガ
IT WAS AS IF HE WERE EXPERIENCING KAJIWARA'S PAIN.
MISTER ...
HU AH!
HU AH!
HU AH!
IT APPEARED AS IF HE WERE ATTACKING KAJIWARA MERELY SO THAT HE COULD PUNISH HIMSELF.
HU AH!
...MAG-NIFICENT.

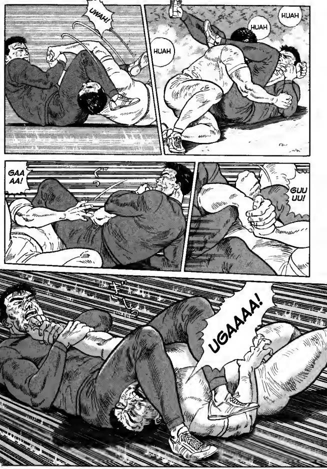

ザッ
ザザザザ
ガン
GU!
M... MISTER...
AIN'T... THIS ENOUGH?...
RYOUJI WANTED TO JUMP IN AND SAY THAT.

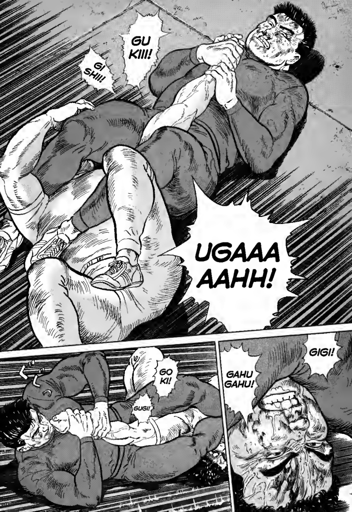

HUA AAH!
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
TOYOH PRO WRESTLING
HU AH!
ガッ
TOYOH PRO WRESTLING

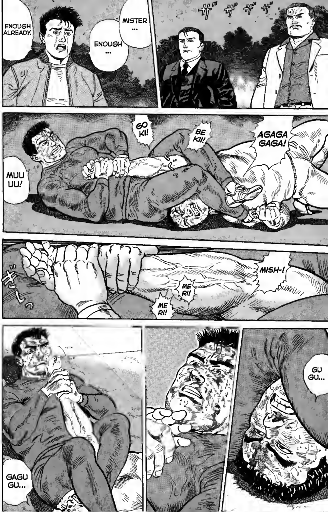

ドズッ
ズッ
ドッ
ふらっ
TOYOH
ガッ
TOYOH
UHAA AAA!

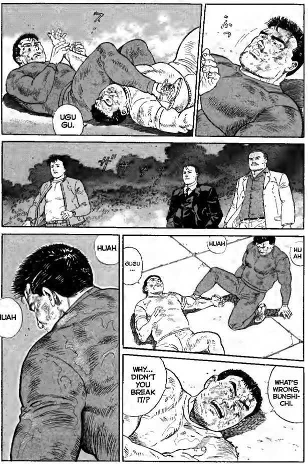

OH!
AAA AHH!
ズルッ
エーイヤッ!!
ゴッ!!

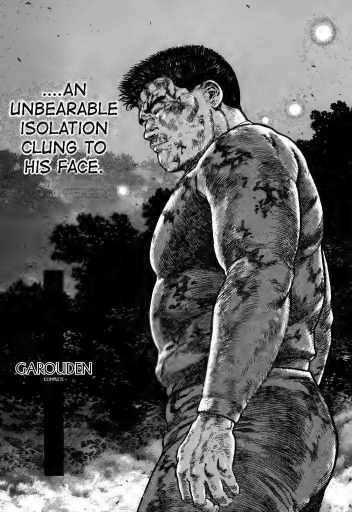

GUGU ...
UGU GU...
UGU...
MISTER ...
ザッ
MUU GH!
UOO OH!
ズザッ


UWAH!
HUAH
HUAH
HUAH
GAA AA!
GUU UU!
UGAAAA!


GU KIII!
GI SHII!
UGAAA AAHH!
GIGI!
GAHU GAHU!
GO KI!
GUGI!


ザザザザ
MISTER ...
ENOUGH ...
ENOUGH ALREADY.
AGAGA GAGA!
BE KI!!
GO KI!
MUU UU!
MISH-!
ME RI!
ME RI!
ぎしっ
GU GU...
GAGU GU...


ふっ
ズ
UGU GU.
ザ ザ
HU AH
HUAH
GUGU ...
WHAT'S WRONG, BUNSHICHI.
WHY... DIDN'T YOU BREAK IT!?
HUAH
HUAH


....AN UNBEARABLE ISOLATION CLUNG TO HIS FACE.
GAROUDEN
COMPLETE

インタビュー解説

板垣恵介（イブニング（講談社）で「餓狼伝」連載中）谷口ジロー版「餓狼伝」を語る

●板垣恵介にとって夢枕 獏とは――

格闘技を扱って漫画家として身を立てていきたいと思ったときに、最大の壁が「北斗の拳」でした。パンチ一発で身体がはじけるような表現までいきついてしまった格闘表現。それに対して、そのころ僕が描こうとしていたのは地味な攻撃のやりとり、いまさらそんなものでどうやって売るんだと。

そんなとき出あったのが夢枕 獏先生の小説「餓狼伝」でした。空手、拳法、そしてプロレスまでも視野に入れた格闘小説を、あの「魔獣狩り」（注1）を描く力を持った作家が書くということで、本当に嬉しかったんです。「餓狼伝」を手にとって読み始めて、10ページもめくらないうちに、あとの残り百数十ページが「足りない！　もうこれしかないのか！」って思いましたよ。それほど魅力的で、芳醇で、熱くなれる。夢枕先生の作品によって、リアルな格闘表現でこれだけのものがつくれることを知ったし、その後の僕の漫画の基本となるようなムード作り、作品に流れる空気を学ぶことができたんです。

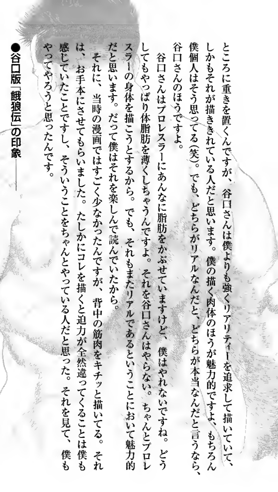
●板垣恵介にとって谷口ジローとは――

僕はボクシングが好きで、競技者としての経験もあります。「あしたのジョー」や「リングにかけろ」といったボクシング漫画を読んで、本物はこうじゃないんだよな、という気持ちがずっとあったんです。そういったなかで、すごいリアリティーと迫力のあるボクシング漫画を描いている人がいるということを「青の戦士（BLUE FIGHTER）」（注2）という作品を読んで知りました。それが谷口ジローさんです。その後の「ナックルウォーズ」（注3）でも、さらに画力を増していましたね。

僕が25歳のころ、伊勢丹かどこかのデパートで、漫画の原画展が開催されたとき、当時僕ははっきり漫画家になることを目指していたので、見に行ったんです。当時のあらゆるヒット作家の作品がそこに展示されていたんですが、僕にとって一番の目玉は、谷口さんの画を見ることでした。谷口さんはハードボイルド小説のカバーイラストを描いたりしていて、あこがれましたね。ああ、漫画家ってこういうこともやれるんだと。

●谷口ジローの肉体表現――

肉体を描くことにおいて、僕はリアルかどうかというより、むしろ魅力的かどうかという



ところに重きを置くんですが、谷口さんは僕よりも強くリアリティーを追求して描いていて、しかもそれが描ききれている人だと思います。僕の描く肉体のほうが魅力的ですよ、もちろん僕個人はそう思ってる（笑）。でも、どちらがリアルなんだと、どちらが本当なんだと言うなら、谷口さんのほうですよ。

谷口さんはプロレスラーにあんなに脂肪をかぶせていますけど、僕はやれないですね。どうしてもやっぱり体脂肪を薄くしちゃうんですよ。それを谷口さんはやらない。ちゃんとプロレスラーの身体を描こうとするから。でも、それもまたリアルであるということにおいて魅力的だと思います。だって僕はそれを楽しんで読んでいたから。

それに、当時の漫画ではすごく少なかったんですが、背中の筋肉をキチッと描いてる。それは、お手本にさせてもらいました。たしかにコレを描くと迫力が全然違ってくることは僕も感じていたことですし、そういうことをちゃんとやっている人だと思った。それを見て、僕もやってやろうと思ったんです。

●谷口版「餓狼伝」の印象——

谷口さんが「餓狼伝」を描くと知ったのは、僕がプロになる前でしたが、そりゃ口惜しかった。僕が描きたいと思っていた作品だったから。やられたな、と思った。ひとつチャンスが消えたな、

と。

読んだときも、生意気ざかりですから、「俺（おれ）が描けばもっとよくなる」と思いましたよ（笑）。でも、谷口さんの画が出す、なんというか、武術というものが持つ日本的な雰囲気。僕が描くともっとバタくさくなるんですが。丹波文七と泉宗一郎の決闘のシーン、あれ、尺八の音が聴こえるようなんです。ああ、谷口さんが描くとこういうムードが出るんだなと感じました。

そして、殴られたときの表情のリアルさ。泉宗一郎が正拳で顔を殴られるシーンなんかはすごくリアリティーがあって、読んだ当時の僕は、こういうところも取り入れていかなければと思ったのを覚えています。

●谷口ジローの影響――

僕・板垣恵介の作画におけるブレンドがあるんですが、それは、谷口ジロー＋池上遼一（いけがみりょういち）（注4）＋鳥山明（とりやまあきら）（注5）。そのブレンドを板垣恵介というフィルターに通してから描いたのが今の僕の画なんです。僕の読者の皆さんは気づきにくいかもしれませんが、読者の皆さんが見ていないものも含めて、僕の初期の作品をあらためて見てみれば、すごくよくわかることなんです。

谷口さんに作画では相当に強い影響を受けている。僕にとっての目標だったんです。ああいう重量感のある作品を描くということが目標だった一時期がまちがいなくありました。

現在、僕は「餓狼伝」を長く連載しているわけですから、詳しく緻密に描いていけるじゃないですか。だから漫画としての立場は違うけれども、板垣版「餓狼伝」は、相手に対する十分な敬意を認識しつつも、谷口版「餓狼伝」と対立関係なんです。ライバルなんです。

僕は、いまだに谷口版「餓狼伝」を強く意識しています。常に考えているわけではありませんが、折にふれ、こうして谷口さんを語る機会があると、思わず熱く語ってしまう。僕がずっと谷口ジローと、そしてその人が描いた「餓狼伝」を意識してるということなんだと思い知らされるんです。

注1 「魔獣狩り」
夢枕 獏著。1984年祥伝社より第一弾「淫楽編」が刊行。夢枕 獏を一躍ベストセラー作家にした大ヒットシリーズ。人間の精神に侵入する特殊能力を持った「サイコダイバー」の戦いを描く。

注2 「青の戦士」
原作／狩撫麻礼、画／谷口ジロー。1980年ビッグコミックスピリッツ（小学館）の創刊号から連載。自らの過去を憎む孤高のボクサーの物語。双葉社アクションコミックス全1巻。

注3 「ナックルウォーズ」
原作／狩撫麻礼、画／谷口ジロー。1982年よりプレイコミック（秋田書店）に連載。ボクシングの魅力に取りつかれた少年の物語。双葉文庫全2巻。

注4 池上遼一
劇画漫画の第一人者。漫画原作者・小池一夫がプロ漫画家養成のために主宰した「劇画村塾」の講師を務める。板垣恵介はこの劇画村塾出身である。

注5 鳥山 明
「Dr.スランプ」「ドラゴンボール」の大ヒット作で知られる漫画家。抜群の画力で描かれたその作品は世界中で愛されている。

板垣恵介 *Keisuke Itagaki*

漫画家。1957年生まれ。北海道釧路市出身。高校卒業後、陸上自衛隊に入隊、空挺部隊所属。少林寺拳法の有段者で、ボクシングライト級で国体に出場。1989年「メイキャッパー」で漫画デビュー。1991年「グラップラー刃牙」を週刊少年チャンピオン（秋田書店）に連載開始、大好評を博し、続編「バキ」を現在連載中。「餓狼伝」は1996年コミックバーズ（スコラ社）で連載開始、現在はイブニング（講談社）で連載中。

餓狼伝

2005年11月19日　初版第1刷発行

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印刷 製本　図書印刷株式会社

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ISBN4-8401-1447-1 C0179